

# **Critter Class**

## **Age 4-Grade 2**

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Welcome to Cosley Zoo! This class is designed to introduce your students to the concept of sorting animals into groups. We will also discover adaptations that help mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians to survive in their environments. Students will view pictures, touch biofacts, and meet live animals to reinforce what they have learned.

### **Program Objectives:**

- To learn the basic characteristics of mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles
- To be able to place animals into the proper group based on their characteristics

This class corresponds with the following Illinois learning standards: 4.A.1a, 4.A.1b, 4.B.1b, 12.A.1a, 12.A.1b, 12.B.1a

### **PRE-VISIT INFORMATION**

Here are some suggested activities for your class to complete before your visit to Cosley Zoo. Many of these activities correspond with Illinois learning standards, which are listed after the appropriate activities.

1. Introduce students to animal characteristics by playing a guessing game. Each student should think of an animal and write down several clues to help their classmates guess the animal. ("My animal has fur", "My animal walks on four legs", etc.) Younger children may need to dictate their clues to an adult. Read the clues aloud and see how quickly the class can guess the secret animals. (1.C.1a, 3.A.1, 3.C.1a)
2. Ask students to complete the "How Many?" worksheet. Allow them to use age-appropriate reference materials to find more answers. (5.A.1a, 5.A.1b, 5.B.1a, 12.A.1a, 12.A.1b)
3. Gather animal pictures from magazines or the internet. Include a variety of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Ask a group of several students to come up to the front of the class, then give each one a picture. Ask the rest of the class to figure out what fraction of the animals exhibit a common characteristic. Examples: "What fraction of these animals have fur?", "What fraction of these animals are cold-blooded?" (6.A.1b, 12.A.1a, 12.A.1b)

### **POST-VISIT INFORMATION**

The following post-visit activities will help you to extend your visit to Cosley Zoo. Corresponding learning standards are listed after each activity.

1. Ask each student to bring a stuffed animal to school. Sort the animals into 5 groups: mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and "other" (insects, dinosaurs, etc.). Create a bar graph to display the results. Which group is the biggest? Which is the smallest? (1.C.1f, 6.D.1, 10.A.1a, 10.A.1b, 10.B.1b, 12.A.1b)
2. Ask students to complete the attached "Animal Characteristics" worksheet. (1.C.1f, 12.A.1a, 12.A.1b)
3. Ask students to complete the attached "Draw It!" worksheet. (7.A.1a, 26.A.1e)
4. Divide a large piece of paper into quarters, labeling the sections "Mammals", "Birds", "Reptiles", and "Amphibians". Ask the students to find pictures of animals belonging to each group and attach them to the proper section. (3.C.1b, 4.A.1c, 4.A.1d, 12.A.1b)

If you have questions or comments about your visit to Cosley Zoo, please share them with us. Call 630-665-5534 or send them to:

Education Supervisor  
Cosley Zoo  
1356 Gary Ave.  
Wheaton, IL 60187

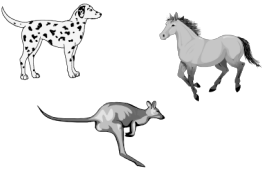
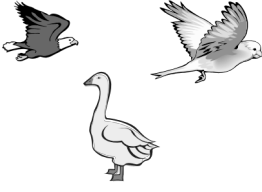
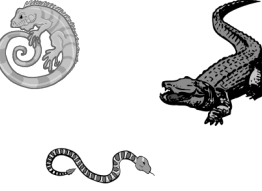

# HOW MANY?

How many animals can you find that fit into each of these groups?

	Animals that lay eggs	Animals that have scales on their bodies	Animals that are warm-blooded
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			
16.			
17.			
18.			
19.			
20.			

# Animal Characteristics

Complete the table by filling in the missing sections.

	Body covering	Warm-blooded or cold-blooded?	Eggs or live babies?
<b>Mammals</b> 	<b>FUR</b>		
<b>Birds</b> 		<b>WARM-BLOODED</b>	
<b>Reptiles</b> 			<b>EGGS</b>
<b>Amphibians</b> 		<b>COLD-BLOODED</b>	

# DRAW IT!

1. Draw a mammal that is 3 inches long.
2. Draw a bird that is 2 inches tall.
3. Draw a reptile that is 4 inches long.
4. Draw an amphibian that is 2 inches tall.