

SOUTH ZOO TOUR

Asian Elephant (Elephant Encounter Building)

1. Location: southern India through Burma to Thailand - forest dwellers;
2. Diet consists of about 500 pounds of vegetation--drink about 30-50 gallons of water per day in the wild;
3. Gestation: 19-24 months, one offspring;
4. Longevity: 60-70 years;
5. Two basic types of elephants:

Asian

- a. Small ears;
- b. Back arches up in the middle;
- c. One "finger" projection on trunk;

African

- a. Very large ears;
- b. "Sway back;"
- c. Two "finger" projections on trunk;

6. Each quadrant of its jaw has only a single enormous tooth; worn teeth are replaced by new teeth, six replacements for each quadrant;
7. No natural enemies;
8. Live in herds of 15-30;
9. Very intelligent;
10. Half of the wild elephants born, die by the age of 15 years and only about 1/5 survive to reach 30 years of age;

Chimpanzees

1. Location: primarily in Africa--equally at home in the tropical rain forests and woodland savannas that border the equator.
2. Diet consists of fruits, leaves, buds, seeds, pith, bark, insects, bird eggs, and small animals.
3. Commonly use tools such as sticks, rocks, and leaves to obtain food and water.
4. Spend about two-thirds of their time on the ground.
5. Live in communities of 15-100 animals.
6. Grooming provides social interaction as well as cleaning the coat.

Egyptian Goose

1. Location: Africa south of the Sahara and the Libyan Desert, abundant on the Nile--frequents mainly inland waters, favoring lake margins, swamps, and large rivers;
2. Diet consists of leaves, grass, seeds, and small animals;
3. Breed on low, flat grass covered islands--nest on the ground, sometimes known to nest in hollow trees;
4. Very territorial.

Aldabra Tortoise

1. Aldabra Islands between the coast of Kenya and the northern tip of Madagascar.
2. Diet consists of herbivorous material--is a grazer and browser.
3. Weight of the largest specimen has been known to exceed 500 pounds.

4. Life span of oldest known specimen has been recorded at 152 years.

Ostrich

1. Location: Africa--limited to the flatter, open, low-rainfall areas.
2. Diet consists mainly of vegetable matter, but is omnivorous.
3. Usually form small, loosely organized flocks.
4. Largest existing bird, reaching full height of approximately 8-10 feet in 6 months to 1 year and weighing roughly 330 pounds.
5. Life span reaches about 30-40 years.

Reticulated Giraffe

1. Location: Central and Southern Africa - wooded plains and savanna;
2. Diet consists of the leaves and twigs of the acacia trees;
3. Longevity: 25-28 years;
4. Name "giraffe" comes from the Arabic "zarafah", meaning "creator of grace", or "the one that walks very fast;"
5. Range in height from 15-19 feet;
6. Seven vertebrae in neck--same as man and mouse;
7. Obtains most of the moisture they need from the green leaves that they eat--able to drink ten gallons of water at one time;
8. The heart can be over 2 feet long and pump 20 gallons of blood per minute;
9. Have a series of valves to regulate the blood flow through their necks to their heads;
10. Newborn can weigh 150 pounds and stand over 6 feet;
11. No two giraffes are patterned exactly the same.

Cape Buffalo

1. Location: Africa - savanna and woodland;
2. Diet consists mainly of grass and herbs;
3. Longevity: 26 years;
4. Live in large herds--averaging 350;
5. Thick hides are used by the natives as war shields;
6. Never found very far from water (for drinking and wallowing);
7. Usually only sick, aged, or young fall victim to lions
8. Most dangerous when wounded, but unmolested it is normally peacefully disposed, placid, and described as shy;
9. Visited by tickbirds (oxpeckers), which rid them of skin parasites;
10. Have been reported to protect and stay with injured cape buffalo.

Termite Mounds

1. Made of dirt and termite saliva;
2. Wood is used to cultivate fungus, which is eaten by the termites after it has reached a certain age;

3. Temperature within the mound is regulated through ventilation, which is accomplished, by opening and closing the chimneys;
4. May contain two million inhabitants;
5. May reach as high as 15 feet;
6. Deserted mounds serve as shelters for the various other animals.

Marabou Stork

1. Location: African savanna - live near water;
2. Mainly scavengers: will eat anything--carcasses, snakes, rats, termites, water bugs, frogs, and is also an important destroyer of locusts;
3. Longevity: 15 years;
4. Huge bill is able to cut open the abdominal wall of dead animals;
5. The almost bare head is adapted for the insertion into large animal corpses, as with the bare head of vultures;
6. Live in large flocks;
7. Mate for life;
8. Breed in colonies--on rocks or in trees;
9. Wing span--8 feet.

African Crowned Crane

1. Location: southern Africa;
2. Diet consists of plant material, worms, snails, insects, frogs, lizards, mice, and young birds;
3. Unique hunting method--it stamps its feet on the ground, startling insects in the grass into flying, so they become easy prey;
4. Courtship dancing--some dances of local tribes are based on these displays;
5. Unlike most cranes, crowned cranes lose their pinions gradually, and therefore, are always able to fly;
6. Live in flocks--some members serve sentinels.

Grant's Gazelle

1. Location: East Africa - savanna, thick brush, or semi-desert;
2. Diet consists of leaves, shoots, and grass;
3. Travel in small herds of 6-30;
4. Gait called stotting, a kind of bouncing motion with all four legs held stiff and straight;
5. More are killed by wild dogs than any other game;
6. Both sexes have horns;
7. Can go for long periods without water.

Grant's Zebra

1. Location: East Africa - subdesert steppe and bushed grassland;
2. Diet consists of coarse grasses, forage 60-80% of the day;
3. Longevity: 25 years;
4. Used by the Romans in circuses and were called "tiger-horses;"

5. Highly social groupings from two to several hundred (generally 10-40);
6. Active, noisy, and alert--never attempt to conceal themselves or to "freeze" in response to predators
7. Striped pattern:
 - a. No two individuals are striped in the same pattern;
 - b. Stripes confuse predators when zebras are running in a herd;
 - c. A type of disruptive camouflage that breaks the outlines of their bodies--most effective at dawn and dusk;
8. Preyed upon by lions.

Greater Kudu

1. Location: southern and east Central Africa - bush country and open woodlands;
2. Diet consists of leaves, shoots, wild fruit, graze on young grass;
3. Longevity: 20 years;
4. Associate in small herds of 6-20;
5. Flee from predators with jumps of up to 7-8 feet;
6. Preyed upon by lions, leopards, wild dogs, and cheetah;
7. Males have spiraled horns and a throat mane.

Brown Bear

1. Location: Alaska, national parks, British Columbia, and the Yukon;
2. Diet consists mainly of plants, also small rodents, salmon, trout, carrion--an opportunistic feeder;
3. Longevity: 25-30 years;
4. Eleven subspecies--includes the grizzly and Kodiak;
5. Hump of fat and muscle over shoulder--characteristic of brown bear;
6. Newborn weigh about one pound;
7. Males may weigh 1400-1800 pounds, stand 6.5 to 10 feet.

Spectacled Bear

1. Location: Only known living bear in South America and is the continent's second largest land animal after the tapir.
2. Although primarily herbivorous, also feeds on insects, small animals, honey and carrion.
3. Longevity: Approximately 20-25 years.
4. Not large by bear standards. Ranges from 5-6 feet tall from head to end of tail.
5. Weights range from 220-340 pounds for males, and 140-180 for females.

Cats (general information)

1. All cats have five rows of long, stiff, and highly sensitive whiskers;
2. Retractable claws (except the cheetah);
3. Differences between big and small cats:

Small cats

- a. Cannot roar;
- b. Pupils contract to "slits;"

Big Cats

- a. Can roar;
- b. Pupils contract to circles;

- c. Can purr when exhaling and inhaling; c. Can only purr when they exhale;
- 4. Large eyes with binocular and color vision--image is intensified by a reflecting layer, the tapetum.

Snow Leopard

1. Location: high mountains of Central Asia - Himalayas;
2. Diet consists of ibex, wild sheep, hare, mice, birds, and tahrs;
3. Longevity: 15 years;
4. Can jump 20-50 feet;
5. Coat protects from cold and extreme heat;
6. Hunted for its valuable fur;
7. Paws have hair cushions for traction on snow, and protect its soles;
8. Active by day, using its eyesight for hunting;
9. Classified as a big cat, but does not roar--purrs like a small cat;
10. Not a true leopard.

African Lion

1. Location: mostly in eastern Africa--savanna;
2. Diet consists of antelopes, zebras, and gnus--an opportunistic feeder;
3. Longevity: 15-25 years;
4. Live and hunt in groups (prides) of 6-30--the only big cat to do so;
5. Stable groups are composed of related females--males usually leave the natal group and try to breed elsewhere;
6. Group hunting is very effective: one lion may catch only one out of every twelve tries, groups are successful four out of twelve times;
7. Males's chief role in the pride is to defend the territory and the females from other males;
8. Mane protects the neck area during competitive fights;
9. An adult male spends 20 out of 24 hours resting and can eat up to 75 pounds at one sitting.

Siberian Tiger

1. Location: eastern Siberian forests, northern China and Korea--moderately dense cover;
2. Diet consists of deer, wild boar, hare, bear, fish, rodents, and frogs;
3. Longevity: 20-25 years;
4. No two tigers have the same pattern of stripes;
5. Catch prey only one out of every twenty tries;
6. Hunt alone and at night;
7. Like water and swim well, but not good climbers;
8. Largest living felines.

White Rhinoceros

1. Location: south and northeast Africa - drier savanna;
2. Diet consists of grasses and leafy plant foliage when available;
3. Longevity: 40-45 years;

4. One of five species--distinguished from others by the square lip;
5. Hunted most of all for their "horns", which some people believe serves as a medicine;
6. "Horns" composed of closely packed hair-like fibers growing from the skin, no connection with the bone of the skull;
7. Slow breeders--three years may elapse between the birth of each calf;
8. Have three toes on each foot--produces a track that looks like the ace-of-clubs;
9. Basically solitary;
10. Largest of the odd-toed mammals and second largest land animal--weigh from 4,000-8,000 pounds.

Meerkat

1. Location: Spread across the deserts of South Africa.
2. Diet consists of spiders, insects, rodents, birds, and bird eggs. Occasionally eat scorpions and snakes--seem to be immune to the venom.
3. Longevity: Can live up to a ripe old age of 12 years.
4. Standing erect, adult is about 12 inches high, not including tail; may weigh up to 2 pounds.
5. The dark mask around a meerkat's eyes reduces the brightness from the sun's reflection.
6. Highly regimented society with jobs strictly defined: sentry, babysitter, hunter, teacher. While on duty, meerkats do not eat or sleep.
7. "Sunbathing" is a common early-morning pastime. To warm up, the meerkats will stretch out--belly up and legs splayed--to catch a few rays.

Dik-Dik

1. Location: Semiarid regions of southern and eastern Africa.
2. Diet: Herbivores
3. Small antelopes
4. Animals stand up to 16 inches at the shoulder and weigh 8 pounds or less.
5. Live in pairs.

Cheetah

1. Location: Mainly in South and East Africa, the Middle East, and southern Asia.
2. Diet: Antelope, hares, rodents, sometimes larger prey such as zebra.
3. Longevity: About 12 years in the wild, more in captivity.
4. Fastest of all land mammals, sprinting over 60 miles per hour after its prey.
5. Easily distinguished by its lithe build, small head, and long legs.

California Sea Lion

1. Location: North America: West Coast;
2. Diet consists of fish and squid--probably an opportunistic feeder;
3. Longevity: 25 years;
4. Differences between sea lions and seals:

Sea lion

- a. Use foreflippers to "row" through the water (rotating foreflippers);

Seal

- a. Use hind flippers to propel through the water;

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| b. External ears; | b. No obvious external ears; |
| c. Out of the water, the body is supported off the ground by outwardly turned foreflippers, and hind flippers are flexed forward under the body--quadrupedal motion; | c. Crawl on their bellies when out of the water;"humping along;" |

5. Males may weigh about 600 pounds--females, 200 pounds;
6. Natural position of the nostrils is closed--special muscles open the nostrils when they want to breathe;
- 7.. Live in large herds;
- 8.. Must learn to swim.

Black & White Ruffed Lemur

- 1.. Location: eastern Madagascar;
- 2.. Diet consists of leaves and fruits;
- 3.. Breed only during one 24-hour period per year;
- 4.. The Roman name "lemur" means "ghost"--the ghostly ability to be there one moment and gone the next gives lemurs a reputation for magic among the natives;
- 5.. Prosimians--"pre-monkey;"
- 6.. Easily distinguished from true monkeys by their fox-like muzzles;
- 7.. Thumb and great toes are opposable to the other digits;
- 8.. Live in groups of 2-5--pair bonded families
- 9.. Unlike most lemurs--ruffed lemurs build a nest in a tree hole and line it with its own fur;
10. Loud calls to draw attention to possible sources of danger and to maintain spacing between social groups--quiet calls help members of a group to stay in contact;
11. Threatened by habitat destruction;
12. One of the largest of the lemurs;
13. Grooming is very important--the lower front teeth are adapted to make a comb;
14. Generally nocturnal.

