

I'm talking to you!

Key Stage 4 and 5

Learning objectives

To understand that there are different methods of communicating, each has its own strengths and weaknesses.

To know some of the reasons why animals communicate including courtship.

Session content

This interactive session is split into two halves. The first half looks at how animals communicate with each other including auditory, visual, tactile and olfactory communication. Students will also have an opportunity to test their own communication skills and see how we tend to use more than one method to communicate at any one time. The second half of the session is presented by the chimp enclosure where students will have a chance to observe the chimps and find out how chimpanzees communicate through facial movements and body language.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this session...

- Most students will be able to recall the 4 methods of communication and describe 1 strength and weakness for each. Students will be able to describe how different methods of communication are used.
- Some students may have progressed further and will be able describe the 4 methods of communication and explain the strengths and weaknesses of each. They will be able to explain how different species use each method of communication for different reasons.
- Some students may not have progressed as far and will be able to recall the 4 methods of communication and give one reason why animals may use this method of communication.

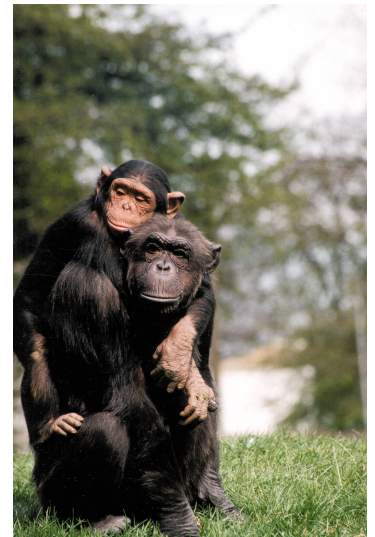
GCSE Specification links

- **Edexcel Science 360 Topic B3** - *Students will be able to describe and explain that*
 - 2.6 much behaviour requires animals to communicate
 - 2.7 communication can happen in many different ways – sound, signals and chemicals (pheromones)
 - 2.8 most mammals are able to communicate their intentions through body posture and facial expressions.
 - 2.9 facial expressions are species-specific: a gesture or expression may appear as a threat to one species, but may mean something totally different to another.
 - 2.23 sexual reproduction requires the finding and selection of a suitable mate, and can involve courting behaviour.

A-level specification links

- **AQA Biology B 15.14** - Courtship behaviour is a necessary precursor to successful mating and the role of hormones and pheromones in courtship behaviour.

Other links: A-level psychology, BTECs in Animal care and Animal Management



Assessment opportunities

Students' understanding can be assessed through their verbal contributions and questioning.

Session suitability

The majority of this session is presented verbally and supported with text and images projected onto a screen. It is possible to provide individual materials for any partially sighted students. During the first half of the session volunteers are asked to complete 2 communication activities to illustrate several points and students are challenged to test their sense of smell. It is therefore very important that the Zoo is made aware of any allergies. The second part of the session takes place at the chimp enclosure which is within walking distance of the Learning Den. If this is not appropriate for your group, please let us know by calling 01582 871330.

Additional information

We would like to know in advance if any members of your class have learning, physical or sensory difficulties, allergies or illness which might affect their enjoyment of the session. It is usually possible to tailor the sessions should your group have any special requirements. Please call 01582 871330 at least 2 weeks in advance of your visit to discuss the best way to do this.

Suggested activities:

Before the visit

- During the session students will be asked to test their sense of smell. It is very important that the Zoo is made aware of any allergies to essential oils, food flavouring or strong smells. Below is a list of ingredients that may be used in the session. If a person taking part in the session is allergic to any of the following please contact the Zoo on 01582 871330. During the session, before the activity takes place, there will be a reminder about allergies providing an opportunity for students who may be intolerant to identify themselves.
 - Fish
 - Lavender
 - Vinegar
 - Mint
 - Eucalyptus
 - Garlic
 - Onion
 - Coffee
 - Vanilla

NB: Essential oils and food flavourings used may contain alcohol.

- Students should be familiar with the following words before the visit:
 - Communication
 - Behaviour
 - Visual
 - Auditory
 - Tactile
 - Olfactory

During the visit

- Pupils should spend some time observing the chimps, making notes on the communication used. An information sheet about chimpanzee communication can be downloaded from the website along with an observation sheet.
- Pupils could also spend time observe other animals round the park and compare the different communication methods used.

After the visit

- Please complete a feedback sheet (available at the session or from our website) to help improve the education provision at Whipsnade Zoo.
- Students could follow up the work they started on the chimp observations at the Zoo and analyses the communication methods used.

- Students could observe other animals e.g. a pet or a family member, record the communication that took place in and compare with the chimp observation results.

Useful websites

ZSL Whipsnade Zoo – www.zsl.org

Primates.com - www.primates.com/chimps/chimpanzee-info.html

Nature works - www.nhptv.org/natureworks/nwep3.htm