

Zoo careers

Key Stage 3 and 4

Session aim

To showcase the range of jobs available at the zoo and the skills and qualifications required.

To start students thinking about their future career and give them a realistic look at what some jobs at a zoo involve.

Session content

This 40 minute session looks into some of the jobs you could do at a zoo like Whipsnade. The first half of the session looks at career paths that deal directly with animals focusing on keeper and veterinary roles. The second half of the session looks at a selection of other jobs which do not have direct contact with the animals e.g. graphic designer and maintenance manager. The session will show students the wide range of roles available at a zoo and give them an idea of the skills and qualifications required.

National Curriculum links

- **KS3 Sci 4i** – Prepare to specialise in a range of science subjects at key stage 4 and consider career opportunities both within science and in other areas that are provided by science qualifications.
- **KS3 PSHE 1e** – relate job opportunities to their personal qualifications and skills, and understand how the choices they will make at key stage 4 should be based not only on knowledge of their personal strengths and aptitudes, but also on the changing world of work.

GCSE specification links

AQA Additional Applied Science and Applied Science Double award Unit 1 10.2 – Find out what careers are available in science and science related areas.

Other links: Edexcel BTECs in Animal Care, Animal Management, Applied Science

Session suitability

This session is particularly suitable for students in years 9, 10 and 11 as an introduction to the range of career opportunities in the zoo world. The talk is illustrated using text and images projected onto a screen. It is possible to provide individual copies if members of your class are partially sighted.

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 session 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

- Students could list the types of jobs they think would be available at a zoo and what skills they think would be essential. They could start thinking about what they are good at and consider the sort of job they might like to do if they worked at a zoo
- Students could list any questions they may like to ask while they are at the Zoo.

During the visit

- While at the Zoo keep an eye out for staff (most of the staff at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo are in green uniform). Note down what where they are working and what they are doing.

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.
- Were there any jobs at the zoo that took the students fancy? Students could think about how their course/subject choices may affect their career path.
- Students could look at the jobs currently available on our website at www.zsl.org/info/jobs/

Useful websites

ZSL Whipsnade Zoo careers page – www.zsl.org/education/careers-and-courses

BIAZA website - www.biaza.org.uk/public/pages/publications/index.asp?catUid=24