

ZOO PROJECT

Class Field Trip: Visit the primate exhibits at the LA Zoo. Be sure to go to both new and old world monkeys, gibbons (siamangs), baboons, gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans. It's advisable to wear comfortable walking shoes and often best to arrive in the morning to witness more activity. Admission prices at the LA Zoo are \$19.00 for adults and \$14.00 for children (2-12). The zoo hours are 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. For more information you can call the zoo at (323) 644-6400 or visit their website: www.lazoo.org.

Group Visit: Saturday October 17 at 10:00 am. Admission prices (to be paid in class in advance are \$5 per student).

Directions: <http://lazoo.org/visit/driving-directions/>

WORK SHEET -- 50 Points

(Bring a pad of paper and a pen to note your observations)

Part One: GENERAL OBSERVATIONS (10 pts.)

Observe the following primate characteristics.

What is a rhinarium? _____
Which primates have them? _____

Why do primates vocalize? _____
Which primate vocalizations did you observe? What did they seem to mean? _____

Why do primates groom each other? _____
Observe this activity and describe it. _____

What is a catarrhine nose? _____
What does it look like? _____ Which primates have it? _____

What is a platyrrhine nose? _____
What does it look like? _____ Which primates have it? _____

What is a prehensile tail? _____
What can it do? _____ Which primates have it? _____

What are ischial callosities for? _____
What does it look like? _____ Which primates have it? _____

What is an opposable hallux? _____
What does it look like? What primates have it? _____

What is sexual skin? _____
 What does it indicate? Describe what it looks like and if you are able to observe mating or presenting behavior. _____

What is Brachiation? _____
 Observe and Describe this behavior in either gibbons or old world monkeys _____

What is New World Semi-Brachiation? _____
 Observe and Describe this behavior in new world monkeys _____

What is knuckle walking? _____
 Observe and describe this behavior _____

What is quadrumanous walking? _____
 Observe and describe this behavior in orangutans _____

What is sexual dimorphism? _____
 Observe and describe at least one instance of this _____

What is sexual dichromatism? _____
 Observe and describe at least one instance of this _____

Part Two: CHIMPANZEE/ORANGUTAN/GORILLA SOCIAL BEHAVIOR (10 pts.)

Go to EITHER the new gorilla, chimpanzee OR orangutan exhibit and observe for 30 minutes. (If these exhibits are not open or active, pick another primate exhibit that is.) Note the presence of any of the following (if you do not see these things DO NOT note that you did not see these behaviors!):

Neatly write up (type) your observations on a separate paper.

Mother/infant activities (Orangutan/Gorilla exhibits)
 How the design of the exhibit affects social behaviors...
 Grooming cluster (a group of females that groom one another)
 Play (activities engaged in by young animals that teach them skills necessary for adult survival)
 Play group (age-mates that play together)
 Threat gesture (action that shows aggression but stops short of a physical attack)
 Fighting and other aggressive behaviors
 Presenting (the act in which the anal region is presented towards a dominant individual)
 Dominance (where one animal displaces another and takes preference over food, sexual access)
 Submission (where one animal moves away from or gives up food or space to a dominant animal)
 Mounting (where a dominant animal mounts a subordinate one)
 Call (usually a short simple vocalization that transmits a message such as danger)
 Yawn (not necessarily an expression of boredom, may also be a display of large projecting canines in a threat gesture.)
 Stare (a simple stare can act as a threat gesture)

Lip smacking (animal opens and closes its lips rapidly with the tongue darting in and out, used as an appeasement gesture by a subordinate animal and can also occur during grooming.)

Types of grooming: autogrooming (grooming oneself)

allogrooming (grooming another animal)

Sexual behavior (where an estrus female presents herself to an interested male for the purpose of sexual activity)

Part Three: ANIMAL COMPARISONS (10 pts.)

This exercise requires that you compare two distinct individuals. Possibilities include comparing the baby gorilla with the baby orangutan, the father gorilla with the father orangutan or two distinct animals within the same exhibit. Observe each animal's behavior for 10 minutes, noting whom it interacts with, etc. Note the features you are using to recognize this animal (e.g. color, size, unique markings) After this observe the second animal for 10 minutes. Finally compare the behaviors of these two animals--how do their behaviors express their differences in regards to breed, sex, age, and dominance? Neatly write (type) up your observations on a separate paper.

Part Four: HUMAN BEHAVIORS (10 pts.)

After you have finished your observations of nonhuman primates, spend 15 minutes watching the people who are at the zoo (who themselves are watching primates). Listen to what they say about the primates. Do they mimic non-human primate behaviors? How do they describe and explain the behaviors of the animals they are observing? Does the animal behavior seem to be affected by the presence of humans? What similarities are there between human and primate behaviors?

Part Five: PHOTOGRAPHY: (10 pts.)

Illustrate any of your observations with a series of your own photographs. (For example, you can illustrate the different behaviors/ characteristics noted in Part One or Part Two, or you can illustrate your Part Three comparisons.) Neatly mount and *label*. If you shoot digital photographs you can either integrate them into the body of your report or produce a powerpoint show in which you *label* each of your images. Powerpoint shows may be submitted on either a CD or a thumb drive or by posting on www.slideshare.net