

This classroom activity introduces students to the context of the performance task. This ensures that students are not disadvantaged in completing the skills the task intends to assess. Contextual elements include understanding the situation of the task, potentially unfamiliar concepts associated with the situation or setting, and key terms or vocabulary students will need to understand in order to engage with the performance task. This classroom activity is also intended to interest the students in the task they are to complete. This activity should be easy to implement and contains clear instructions.

Please read through the entire classroom activity before beginning the activity with students. This will ensure that all classroom preparation is completed before the activity begins.

Resources Needed:

- Chart paper, whiteboard, or chalkboard
- Markers or chalk
- One piece of paper and pencil per group
- A method of displaying images, such as a projector

Learning Goals:

- Students will understand the context of the key concepts related to the topic:
 - Learn about the way animals live in a zoo
 - Understand that some individuals feel zoos are beneficial, but some believe they cause harm to animals
- Students will understand the key term:
 - **Zoochosis:** a term to explain a range of problems with animals kept in captivity
 - **Captivity:** being held or confined to a specific place

Definitions are provided here for the convenience of facilitators. Students are expected to understand these key terms as they arise in the context of the task, not to be able to recite the definitions.

[**Purpose:** The facilitator's goal is to introduce students to the life of animals in zoos and the care they may be given.]

Note: The activity can be modified to accommodate for different teacher-student interaction types such as teacher-led discussions with the entire class, a teacher-student discussion for single students or small groups.

[Divide students into groups. Depending on classroom size or preference make groups of two to four students. Give each group a piece of paper and a pencil.]

[Display **Figure 1**]

Facilitator says: "This is a picture of an orangutan. Orangutans are originally from Indonesia and Malaysia, but can now be observed in zoos around the world. Zoos provide the ability to observe animals from different parts of the world just miles away from you."

Facilitator asks: "What other types of animals could you find in the zoo?"

[Write the question on the board as you read it aloud.]

[Give students two minutes to discuss the question in their groups.]

[After two minutes call on each group and write their answers below the question on the board.]

Possible student answers *unscripted*:

- Penguins
- Elephants
- Monkeys
- Eagles
- Giraffes
- Lions
- Flamingos

[The discussion should last about two to three minutes.]

Facilitator asks: "How do you think the zoo is different from their natural habitat?"

[Write the question on the board as you read it aloud.]

[Give the groups three minutes to discuss the question.]

[After the time has passed call on each group and write their answers on the board underneath the question.]

Possible student answers *unscripted*:

- They live in cages in the zoo while they live freely in the wild.
- There are no predators in the zoo unlike in their natural habitat where they have to defend themselves.

- They cannot hunt for their food in the zoo because the food is already provided for them.
- They do not have competition from other species since they are separated by species in their cages.
- They always have food and water at the zoo because the zoo has more resources than in the wild.
- They cannot migrate depending on the weather since they are in a cage at the zoo.

[The discussion should take around five minutes.]

Facilitator says: "Now I want to know if you think that each of the items on the list benefits the animals or if it harms them."

[Give students four minutes to discuss amongst their groups, each of the items on the list.]

[After four minutes call on each group asking them about each item on the list.]

[Place a minus sign (-) next to each item if a group believes it is harmful and a plus sign (+) next to an item a group believes it is beneficial.]

[The discussion should take no more than three minutes. Do not ask for an explanation.]

Facilitator says: "Zoochosis is a term used to explain a range of problems with animals kept in captivity."

[Write the definition on the board.]

Facilitator asks: "What do you think are some of the problems that animals can suffer?"

[Give students two minutes to discuss the question.]

[After two minutes call on two to three groups.]

[Write the student responses on the board underneath the definition, then write the following list.]

Note: if an item on the list has been mentioned by the students then it should not be repeated.

- Bar Biting
- Circling
- Rocking
- Frequent licking
- Excessive grooming
- Swaying
- Pacing
- Rolling, twisting, nodding of the neck or head

Facilitator says: "Zoos are not only for entertainment, but also for the protection of animals that are near extinction. In the zoos the animals cannot be hunted by either humans or their natural predators, allowing them to reproduce and grow to a larger number where they are no longer in danger of extinction. However, these animals cannot be placed back in the wild because they could not survive on their own."

Facilitator says: "Zoos make sure that the animals are well fed and healthy at all times; however, animals usually become bored or stressed because they cannot hunt their food or have to conform to the food that is given to them. Zoos have many benefits for the animals, but also harm them in some ways."

Facilitator says: "In your performance task, you will be learning more things about zoos. The discussion we had today should help you prepare for the research and writing you will be doing in the performance task."

[Collect all notes from students and remind them that they cannot be used during the performance task.]

Resource Documents

Figure 1. Picture of an Orangutan



[**Picture Description:** "The picture shows an adult orangutan at a zoo."]