

## Discovery Bay

Scavenger Hunt, Grades 4-8

1. How many dolphins does the MN Zoo have? Listen during the show for their names and ages.

Four (4). Semo-age 44; April-age 41; Allie-age 21; Spree-age 6

2. What are baby sharks called? pups

3. Describe "by catch" and why it is harmful to sea animals.

By catch are organisms that are caught in nets that are not the intended species. Harmful because many die in these nets, especially air breathing animals like turtles and dolphins.

4. True or false: Estuaries are shallow areas in which salt water from the sea meets fresh water from streams and rivers.

True

5. **Thought question:** Many tide pool animals have a unique way of catching their food. Name two of these animals and the way in which they would feed.

Sea stars-eat clams and mussels by pulling open shells with their suckered tube feet and positioning their mouth at the shell opening.

Sea anemones-small fish and anything that floats past their stinging tentacles.

## Tropics Trail

Scavenger Hunt, Grades 4-8

1. Why are trees so important to a young Komodo Dragons?

They young climb the trees for protection from adults who will eat them.

2. What animals are close relatives of the tapir?

Horse or rhino

3. Name four animals that have benefited from global conservation efforts. **BONUS:** Of these four animals, which are exhibited at the Minnesota Zoo.

Sumatran tiger	South China tiger	Indochinese tiger
Thai gibbon	Javan gibbon	Langur
Orangutan	<u>Asian wild horse</u>	Blackfooted ferret
Asian elephant	<u>Mexican wolf</u>	Winged Mapleleaf mussel

4. Name two possible causes for a species decline.

Poaching, habitat loss/destruction

**Thought question:** Name a nocturnal species and describe a few advantages and disadvantages of hunting at night. How do nocturnal animals overcome these disadvantages?

1. Name of animal chosen will vary.
2. Advantages: less competition, cooler temperatures, better to hide
3. Disadvantages: less prey, darker,
4. Overcome challenges: eat less often, larger eyes, darker coloration, better hearing

# Minnesota Trail

Scavenger Hunt, Grades 4-8

1. Name a Minnesota *Wild and Rare* organism found in a wetland ecosystem. **Spotted salamander**

A *Wild and Rare* bird: **Burrowing owl**

2. Name the two types of owls that live in Minnesota.

**Great horn owl, barred owl, saw whet owl short-ear owl**

3. What are two other names for the mountain lion?

**Puma and mountain lion**



4. Name three carnivores found on the MN trail.

- A. **Any of these: coyote, wolf, puma, lynx, eagle,**  
B. **fisher, river otter, wolverine**  
C.

**Thought question:** Draw a beaver lodge. Why do you think their entrances are underwater? How do beavers get food in winter?

The underwater entrance is for protection from predators.  
The food in the winter is from a cache (they store food throughout the summer and fall)

# Northern Trail

Scavenger Hunt, Grades 4-8

1. Tigers are classified into subspecies. The MN Zoo has Amur tigers. What subspecies of tiger became extinct in the 1980's? **Javan tiger**

2. What is the fastest North American land animal?

**Pronghorn**

3. Which species is unique in that both males and females have antlers?

**Woodland caribou**

4. Separate the animals on the trail into three groups:

Herbivores	Omnivores	Carnivores
Bison, Prairie dog, Goitered gazelle, Moose, Musk ox, Pronghorn, takin, caribou, Wild asian horse, Bactrian camel	Brown bear, wild boar, meerkats,	Amur tiger, Amur leopard, Mexican wolf, sea otters,

**Thought question:** Describe in detail some ways in which wolf packs communicate with each other.

Vocal sounds: howling-to keep pack together; growls, wimpers  
Visual: body position, tail position  
Scent: urine marking

## General Observation

Scavenger Hunt, Grades 4-8

1. Pick one **social** animal of your choice and observe for at least 10 minutes. Record the following:

Your animal choice *Answers will vary depending animal chosen.*

Movements:

Social behaviors:

2. Pick one **solitary** animal of your choice and observe for at least 10 minutes. Record the following:

Your animal choice *Answers will vary depending animal chosen.*

Movements:

Physical characteristics:

## General Observation Continued

Scavenger Hunt, Grades 4-8

In the space below write an article for the local newspaper, describing your experience at the Minnesota Zoo, persuading your readers to come and visit. Use information you discovered on your visit today.

# Russia's Grizzly Coast

Scavenger Hunt, Grades 4-8

Name the three biomes represented in the Russia's Grizzly Coast exhibit.

Rocky (Pacific) coast

Subarctic North

Forested South

## Sea Otters

1. Sea otters can withstand temperatures down to 30 °F
2. What characteristics enable sea otters to endure these cold temperatures?  
Thick fur      Large body (conserves heat)  
  
Backstroke (floating on back keeping exposed paws out of chilly waters)
3. Sea otters are closely associated with what ecosystem?  
  
Kelp forest
4. What would happen to this ecosystem if sea otters were to disappear? Disappear because sea urchin populations will increase (they eat kelp). Otters eat sea urchins  
If sea otters then returned? Return and flourish

# Russia's Grizzly Coast continued

Scavenger Hunt, Grades 4-8

## Bears

1. Why are bears called an "opportunist"?  
They eat anything
2. Is this beneficial to their survival? Why? Yes. They are adaptable to any environment
3. What food source do Russian brown bears rely on to gain 400 lbs. of fat to survive the winter? Salmon

## Conservation in Action

Read the steps taken to try to ensure an animal's future.

### LEARN

Learn about the animal and its habitat so to better understand them.

### INVOLVE

Involve the local residents in the animal's well being and survival.

### SAVE

Protect animal's land/habitat where they are natively from. This could also include its food source.

### RESTORE

Reintroduce the animal back into its former range of its habitat.