



MINNESOTA ZOO™
Changing how you see the world

Getting to Know You: Learning the AZA and SSP Terminology Pre-visit Activity

MN Graduation Standards supported:

Grade 7 Strand IV.C
The student will understand that within ecosystems, complex interactions exist between organisms and the physical environment.

Grades 8-12 Strand III.A
The student will investigate the impact humans have the environment.

Grades 9-12 Strand IV.C
The student will describe how the environment and interactions between organisms can affect the number of species and the diversity of species in an ecosystem.

Vocabulary:

AZA
SSP

Links:

Minnesota Zoo website
www.mnzoo.org

American Zoos and
Aquariums website
[http://www.aza.org/ConScience/
ConScienceSSPList/#B](http://www.aza.org/ConScience/ConScienceSSPList/#B)

Introduction:

It's a great day when one gets to take a trip to the zoo either physically or through cyberspace! When there you will encounter many animals and oftentimes information will be displayed talking about the plight of the animal you are viewing. Zoos are great places to visit to just view animals, but they also serve a crucial role when it comes to protecting the remaining members of an endangered species, attempting to captive breed individuals to increase the population, and to inform the public what can be done to help the struggling population.

Objectives:

At the end of this lesson, the students will:

1. Become familiar with AZA criteria for placing an animal in a SSP program.

Procedure:

1. Have the students search the Minnesota Zoo website to learn about their conservation efforts and to become familiar with terminology used in SSP programs as administered through the AZA.
2. Answer the questions on the Getting to Know You worksheet by looking under the conservation tab of the Minnesota Zoo website and then clicking National programs and then SSPs.
3. Print out the activity sheet for the students to fill out as they use the zoo's website and the attached link to the American Zoo and Aquarium Association.