



MINNESOTA ZOO™
Changing how you see the world

SSP Species: Who's in Charge? Pre-visit Activity

MN Graduation Standards supported:

Grade 8 Strand I.A
The student will understand that science is a way of knowing about the world that is characterized by empirical criteria, logical argument and skeptical review.

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

Grade 9-12 Strand I.C
The student will understand the relationship between science and technology and how both are used.

Vocabulary:

Enrichments
Scientific names (how they are constructed)
Taxonomy

Introduction:

Once you have become familiar with SSP terminology, it is time to take it to the next level and find out what animals at the Minnesota Zoo are in the SSP program, who is the sponsoring zoo and responsible for their care and management in the SSP program, and the history behind that zoo's involvement.

Objectives:

At the end of this lesson, the students will:

1. Research and critically evaluate an individual SSP program.
2. Create a representative document highlighting their learning.

Procedure:

1. Assign one Minnesota Zoo SSP animal per student or team as determined by class size.
2. Each student or team will then look up their animal on the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) website which contains all the animals in the SSP program in North America.
3. The students should collect the following information (which can be modified and added to incidentally):
 - a. What zoo is the sponsor
 - b. Who is the coordinator at that institution for the SSP program?
 - c. What is the scientific name of the SSP animal?
4. Once completed the students should visit the sponsoring institution virtually. *For some of the institutions there is a link to a homepage right under their information on the AZA website, but for others the students will have to do search to find the sponsoring institutions website.*
5. On the sponsoring institution's website, the students will need to answer the following questions:

Links:

Minnesota Zoo
www.mnzoo.org

**American Zoo and
Aquarium website**
<http://www.aza.org/ConScience/ConScienceSSPList/#B>

Procedure Continued:

- a. History of the program at that institution including how long they have been running the program.
 - b. What types of special considerations are needed to be put into action in order to house the particular species they are responsible for under the SSP designation.
 - c. Are there any enrichments provided for the well-being of the animal.
 - d. What other information that is interesting, informative, or just fun to know.
6. Once the students have gathered all of this information, have the students assemble a brochure, travel guide, fact sheet, tour map, or some other assessment at the teachers discretion.

