



MINNESOTA ZOO™
Changing how you see the world

Ecology Animal Spotlight Onsite Activity

MN Graduation Standards supported:

Grades 9-12 Strand IV.F
The student will describe and explain the cycling of matter and flow of energy through an ecosystem's living and nonliving components

Introduction:

Animals are usually found in the habitats they are physically and behaviorally well adapted for. Over time, natural selection results in adaptations that enhance survival in the face of different predators, varying food sources, extremes in temperature and moisture conditions. Balanced food webs (flow of energy from plants to top predators) form the basis of successful ecosystems

Objectives:

At the end of this lesson, the students will:

1. Analyze an animal exhibit.
2. Document the different types of behavior observed.
3. Become aware of the key ecological concepts.

Procedure:

1. Make copies of the Animal Spotlight worksheet for each student or group of students.
2. Have the student(s) chose an animal at the Minnesota Zoo and fill out the Animal Spotlight worksheet.