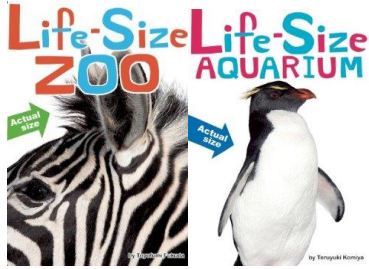




Zoos and Aquariums Read-Aloud Outline

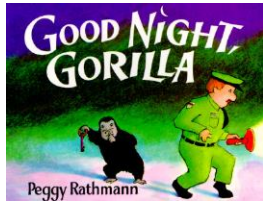
Kids love wild animals. Explore the world of zoos and aquariums (the animals, the people who work there, and the visitors) at your Read-Aloud session. Learn about specific animals or endangered species. Then let the kids try feeding the animals or making their own aquarium.



Life Size Zoo and Life Size Aquarium by Teruyuki Komiya

Ages 4 and up

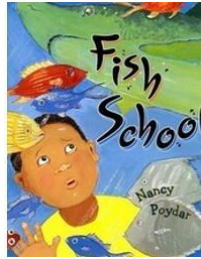
Breathtaking life-sized photos of animals you would find in a zoo make this picture book captivating for kids of all ages. Questions in sidebars encourage close examination of the photos. (See also *More Life Size Zoo* by Teruyuki Komiya.)



Goodnight Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann

Ages 4 and up

In this nearly-wordless book, the zookeeper checks on each animal at bedtime. While he proceeds from animal to animal and then to his own home, the animals climb out of their cages and follow him.



Fish School by Nancy Poydar

Ages 6 and up

When Charlie's class visits an aquarium, he brings his pet goldfish Wishy along in his backpack. The children see all kinds of amazing animals, and Charlie feels Wishy is learning so much! But when they are ready to leave, Charlie realizes he has left his backpack somewhere in the aquarium. Will they find Wishy?

More zoo and aquarium books

Sam Who Never Forgets by Eve Rice

Ages 4 to 8

If I Ran the Zoo by Dr. Seuss

Ages 6 and up

Pssst! by Adam Rex

Ages 5 and up

My Visit to the Aquarium by Aliko
Ages 6 and up

The Aquarium Book by George Ancona
Ages 8 and up

Activities

1. Feed the animals. Did you know that zoo animals have to work for their food? Zookeepers sometimes hide food so the animals have to think and use their muscles to find the food. Keepers hide the foods in rubber hoses, burlap bags, paper towel rolls or paper lunch bags.
 - Material needed: Carrots, apples, pears, melon, lettuce, popcorn, cutting boards, bowls, veggie peelers, apple slicers, spoons, child-safe knives, salad spinner, knife for adult, paper towels, food surface sanitizer spray to clean work surfaces, rubber hose and bamboo stalks (in TRC office), empty paper towel or toilet paper rolls, empty paper lunch bags.
 - To prepare the food, have an adult cut the melon in half, and let the kids seed and cut into cubes with child-safe knives. Kids can peel carrots while an adult cuts them into chunks. Kids can wash lettuce in a salad spinner and cut apples with apple slicers.
 - Show kids how to hide food inside paper towel rolls or paper bags.
 - Let kids eat the food.
2. Make paper plate aquariums. This simple aquarium diorama is made from two paper plates, construction paper and cellophane. Instructions can be found at <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/diorama/aquarium/>.
 - Kids can cut out the fish and other sea creatures while adults prepare the dioramas.
3. Play *Sharks and Minnows* or *Lions and Antelopes*. Directions for playing these games can be found at <http://www.playworks.org/blog/game-week-sharks-and-minnows>.



Conversation Starters

1. What does it mean when an animal is endangered? What role can zoos and aquariums play in saving endangered animals?
2. Where in the world do the animals live? Bring a globe or world map and pictures of different animals. Ask the kids where each animal lives and then find the place on the map. Ask how the kids would re-create the animal's habitat if they had to create a place for it at a zoo or aquarium.

3. What special care needs do very large and very small animals have? What about animals that are runners or live in a climate very different from that of the zoo location?