

Grade Levels: 1-12

Time: 45 Minutes



# Conservation Connection

**Goal:** Provide an introduction to the concept of conservation using hands-on animal interaction and real life involvement.

## Objectives:

- ° Students will understand the concept of conservation.
- ° Students will recognize the importance of biodiversity.
- ° Students will name and describe the four habitat requirements.
- ° Students will state reasons conservation efforts are important.
- ° Students will state what they can do to participate in conversation.
- ° Students will make a connection and identify negative and positive impacts they create via their choices.

## PLANNING YOUR RESERVATION

- ° Fall and spring fill quickly  
**PLEASE REGISTER EARLY**
- ° Groups must register  
**2 WEEKS IN ADVANCE**
- ° Programs require a  
**MINIMUM OF 15 PEOPLE**
- ° Programs are available  
**ON AND OFF-SITE**
- ° Visit our website for  
**EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**
- ° Proper adult supervision  
**REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES**

Why do plants and animals disappear? How do humans impact the natural environment around them? Learn about the many conservation programs the Zoo takes part in and discover how you can get involved.

**Curriculum Alignment:** SC.6.E.6.1, SC.6.E.6.2, SC.6.E.7.2, SC.6.E.7.3, SC.E.7.5, SC.6.E.7.6, SC.6.E.7.7, SC.6.E.7.9, SC.6.L.14.6, SC.7.N.1.7, SC.7.E.6.6, SC.7.L.17.1, SC.7.L.17.2, SC.7.L.17.3, SC.8.N.4.2, SC.8.L.18.1, SC.8.L.18.2, SC.912.E.5.7, SC.912.E.6.6, SC.912.L.17.15, SC.912.L.17.16, SC.912.L.17.17, SC.912.L.17.18, SC.912.L.17.20, SC.912.L.17.8, SC.912.L.17.9, ESS2.C, ESS3.A, ESS3.B, ESS3.C, ESS3.D, LS2.A, LS2.B, LS.C, LS4.D

## Where education and conservation collide!

This program, presented by Brevard Zoo Education staff, is an enhanced experience of the distinct and unique wildlife habitats found at Brevard Zoo. Students delve into the concept through fun, interactive activities, questions and participatory responses, hands-on animal encounters, and animal meet and greets. Programs are designed to supplement in-class learning. Depth and structure vary depending on grade and age range.

## What is conservation?

Conservation is the management of human use of the biosphere including preservation, maintenance, sustainable utilization and restoration, and enhancement of the natural environment. Biological diversity, or biodiversity, is the variety of all life on Earth. Measuring biodiversity helps us rate the quality of the environment and the health of all living things.

Biodiversity is important, because it helps restore the landscape after large-scale natural events such as floods, droughts, earthquakes, hurricanes, and volcanic eruptions. There are three levels of biodiversity: genetic, species, and ecological. Each level is essential to fundamental life processes. Genetic diversity within species allows species to adapt to changes in the environment over time. Species diversity creates a variety of interactions that contribute to energy flow and

nutrient cycling in ecosystems. Ecological diversity provides habitat for different species, as well as essential “services” that maintain the biosphere, including water and air purification, micro-climate control, and soil formation and stability. Extracting and using natural resources (through development, timber harvesting, mining, and so on) can alter environmental conditions, often leading to reduced air and water quality, loss of habitat, and disrupted nutrient cycles. People value biodiversity for many reasons: aesthetic, moral, spiritual, educational, economic, and recreational.

There are many factors that affect biodiversity such as: human population growth; loss, degradation, and fragmentation of habitat; introduction of exotic species; overconsumption of natural resources; and pollution.

**Keywords:** Biodiversity, Conservation, CITES, Ecosystem, Erosion, Endangered Species, Exotic Species, Habitat, Native Species, Pollution, Sustainability, Threatened Species

There are two ways that one can protect biodiversity and they are knowledge and to take action. Knowledge is the key protecting biodiversity. Science and technology contribute to our understanding of biodiversity and the reasons for its loss. Issues related to biodiversity are complex and require information gathered by investigators in a variety of fields, including science, sociology, demographics, technology, planning, history, anthropology, mathematics, and geography. You have both a right and a responsibility to participate in the development of policies that influence biodiversity. Make informed decisions! Zoos and aquariums do a big part to help conserve wildlife.

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