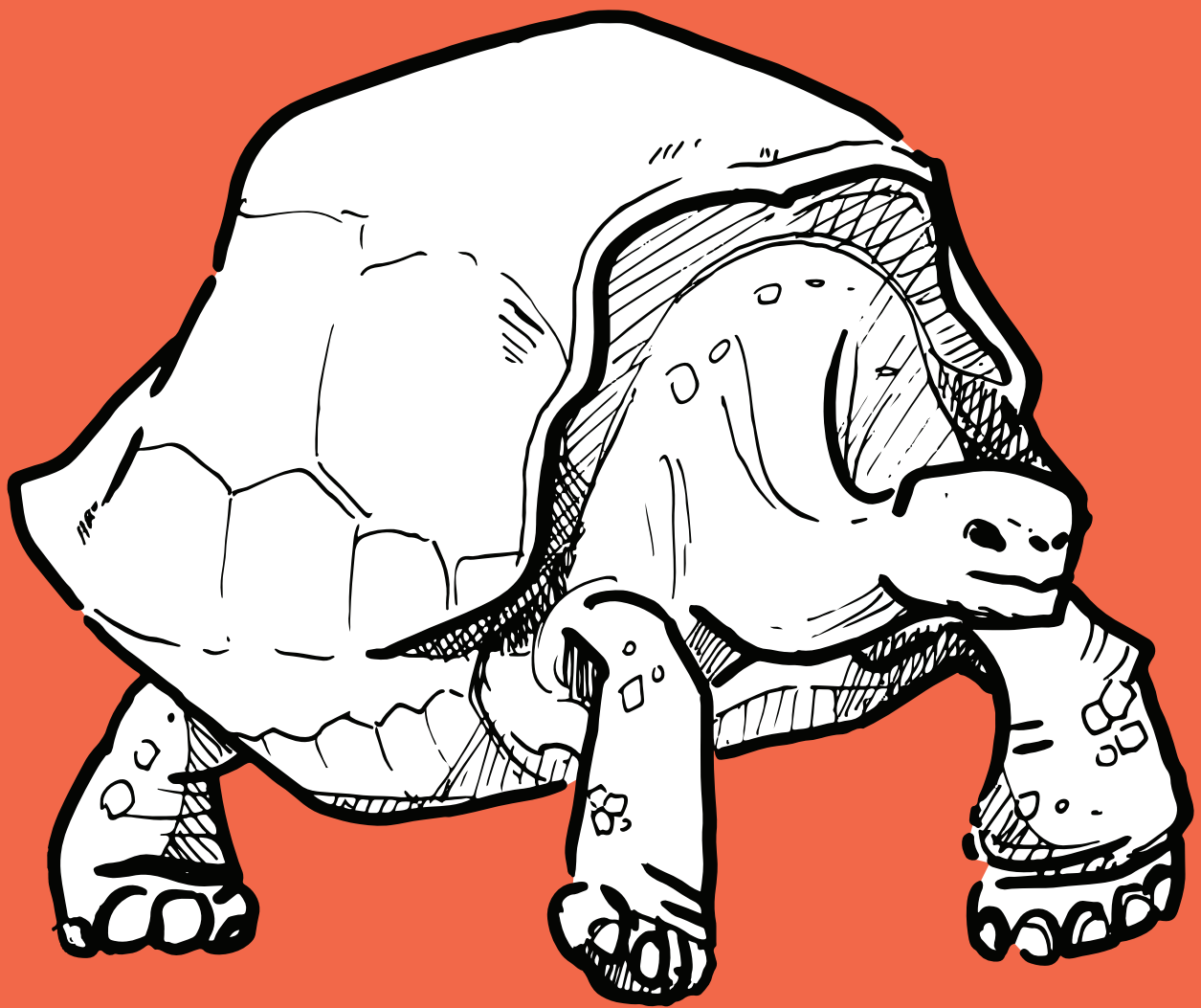


Auckland Zoo Education Pack

ECE



Theme:
Environment and habitat

Zoo Lesson plan

Theme:

Early Childhood (ages 0-4) ENVIRONMENTS & HABITATS

What will I learn:

How habitats are designed for the animals at Auckland Zoo.

Inspire

A habitat is the natural environment or home that an animal lives in. Take a quick tour of [Strangely Beautiful Australia](#) and a [behind-the-scenes](#) to see how the Australian animals are linked together.

Check out the New Zealand species area, [Te Wao Nui](#) and the [Forest Aviary with Natalie](#).

Enjoy hours of [Animal cams at Auckland Zoo](#) and observe a range of animals in their habitats.

Create

Build a habitat for your favourite animal at the Zoo. Use natural items from your backyard or your own toys. Share your designs with us using the hashtag **#createwithaucklandzoo**

Here is inspiration of a Hippo habitat done by a year 6 student.

Build a [hotel for wētā](#) or create a [lizard home](#) with educator Lizzy.

Using the resource, **Draw the Habitat** (resource attached), draw and colour the habitat for three Auckland Zoo animals.



Reflect

Introducing an animal to their new home at the Zoo can be tricky.

Watch [Billy the Giraffe's journey to Auckland Zoo](#) to see what is involved.

Reflect on these questions:

- What does a giraffe eat?
- How many giraffes did you see?
- What country was Billy living in before Auckland Zoo?
- How would Billy be fed?
- How have we made his habitat safe for the animals AND the visitors?

Explore

Explore our exciting new project that's nearly finished being built - [South East Asia Jungle Track](#). Try out the [South East Asia Jungle Track Board Game](#) to see what it takes to build a new habitat at the Zoo.

Play **Match the Habitat** (resource attached). Match the animal pictures provided with a picture of the animal's habitat at the Zoo. Hint: to use the [Auckland Zoo website](#) for help.

Act

Learn more about Auckland Zoo's [spider monkey troop](#) with Anuradha. Here's [one simple action](#) you can take to protect the wild habitat of spider monkeys and other rainforest animals.

Curriculum links:

All lessons include aspects of the main strands of Te Whāriki the early childhood curriculum

WELLBEING | MANA ATUA, BELONGING | MANA WHENUA, CONTRIBUTION | MANA TANGATA, COMMUNICATION | MANA REO, EXPLORATION | MANA AOTŪROA

Giraffe

Draw the habitat

Giraffes are animals that live in Africa. Their bodies have **adapted** to suit their unique **habitat**. To keep our giraffes healthy at Auckland Zoo, it's important to know about what giraffes need and want.

Your mission is to design a great habitat for this giraffe using the instructions below!



1. Giraffes are herbivores. Their favourite leaves come from thorny Acacias.
Draw some tall trees.
2. Giraffes are social animals and enjoy living with other kinds of animals.
Research animals they live with and draw them into the habitat.
3. Giraffes have blue tongues that protect them from sunburn while eating.
Draw a giraffe using its tongue to eat.
4. Even though giraffes are big, they camouflage themselves in their habitat.
Colour your giraffe to match its habitat.

Meerkat

Draw the habitat

Meerkats live in the Kalahari Desert in Africa. Their bodies have **adapted** to suit their unique **habitats**. To keep our meerkats healthy at Auckland Zoo it's important to know what they need and want.

Your mission is to draw a great habitat for this meerkat using the instructions below!



1. Meerkats are foragers and enjoy eating bugs, snakes, lizards, and scorpions.
Draw some in your habitat.
2. Meerkats dig burrows with their claws.
Draw a burrow home with lots of sand and rocks.
3. They live in big social groups and communicate by making chittering sounds.
Draw some other meerkats.
4. They always have a 'sentry' meerkat that climbs high to watch for predators.
Add an alert sentry meerkat.
5. They have brown fur and dark eyes for camouflage and protection from the sun. *Colour these in.*

Spider monkeys

Draw the habitat

Spider Monkeys live in the tropical rainforests of South America. Their bodies have **adapted** to suit their unique **habitats**. To keep our spider monkeys healthy at Auckland Zoo it's important to know what they need and want.

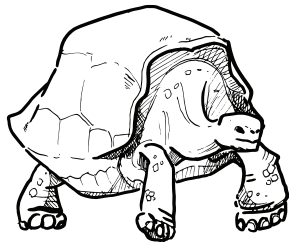
Your mission is to draw a great habitat for this monkey using the instructions below!



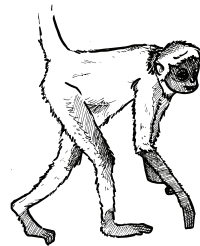
1. Spider monkeys are **arboreal** meaning they spend most of their time in trees.
Draw some trees for them.
2. They have prehensile tails, capable of gripping branches.
Draw a long curly tail for grip and balance.
3. Spider monkeys mostly have a diet of fruit and leaves.
Draw some food around your spider monkey.
4. They live in small groups and are very social.
Draw some more spider monkeys.
5. They have white and brown fur with dark faces and hands.
Colour the spider monkey.

Match the habitat

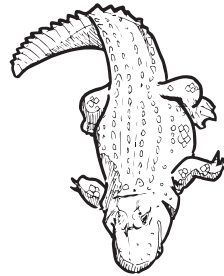
Using the animals provided, pick a matching habitat for the animals below. Draw a line from the animals to their Auckland Zoo habitats.



1. Tortoise



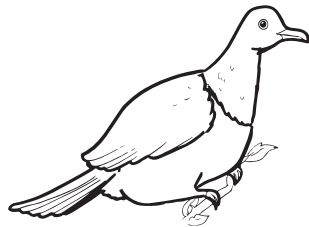
2. Spider monkey



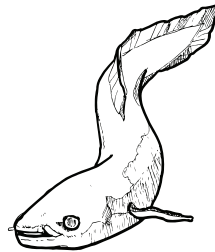
3. Alligator



4. Giraffe



5. Kererū



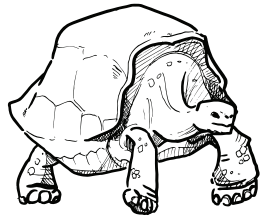
6. Eel



Questions

1. What in this habitat is designed to keep the animal safe? What in this habitat is designed to keep the visitors safe?
2. What did you notice that every habitat had in common? What animal had the most space and why?

▶▶ Match the habitat answers



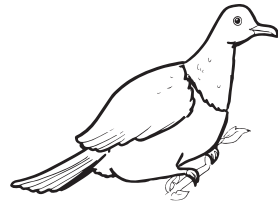
1. Tortoise



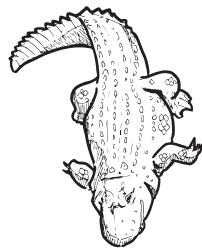
2. Spider monkey



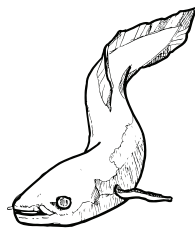
4. Giraffe



5. Kererū



3. Alligator



6. Eel

