



Ultimate Survival

Explore how plants and animals interact with their environment for survival.

Location in the Zoo: Throughout the Zoo

Materials: Pencil

Activity: Complete the following Zoo activities to discover the different ways plants and animals interact in their environment.



Observing Animals

Look at a Zoo map to find the Animal Encounter schedule and choose an Animal Encounter to see:

Animal

Time of Encounter

After the Encounter, describe how that animal interacts with its environment for survival. Feel free to ask the Zookeeper for help!

Ex. Cheetahs hide in tall grasses for camouflage before chasing their prey.

Discovering Environmental Interactions

As you explore the Zoo, find an animal or plant that interacts with its environment in the following ways and write its name on the line. Circle **abiotic** if the interaction is with a non-living thing or **biotic** if it is with a living thing.

Environmental Interaction	Animal	Abiotic/Biotic?
Uses mud or dirt for protection from the sun	_____	Abiotic / Biotic
Changes locations in its environment to regulate body temperature	_____	Abiotic / Biotic
Depends on another living organism for protection	_____	Abiotic / Biotic
Lives or spends most of its time in a tree	_____	Abiotic / Biotic

Observing Plant & Environmental Interactions



Just like animals, plants rely heavily on the environment around them for their survival. As you explore the Zoo, find a plant that interacts with its environment in the following ways and write its name in the box.

What is the name of your plant?	Interaction:
	Tree that produces fruit other animals might eat so the tree's seed might be spread. (Hint: Discovery Forest*)
	Red prop roots anchor these trees in coastal waters along tropical shores such as Florida (Hint: Manatee Springs green house*)
	Bright colors to attract pollinators (Hint: Insect House* or any outside garden)

Nature's Silverware



Birds have different beaks designed for obtaining different kinds of food. Go to the Wings of the World exhibit and locate the "Nature's Silverware" display towards the front of the building.

Observe how beaks compare to different tools. Write down the names of three birds in the exhibit, what tool their beaks are similar to, and what food they get. Are they an herbivore, carnivore, or omnivore?

Bird	Tool	Food	Type of Consumer