4th-12th: Animal Inquiry (Open)

Students will practice the QUEST method of inquiry to answer a question about our Zoo animals.

Description: We can make observations and create investigations about the animals at the Zoo.
Suggested Locations at the Zoo: Manatee Springs, Mexican Wolves, Penguins (various habitats)
Materials: Pencil, timer, clipboard

Activity: We will use the QUEST method of inquiry to answer a question about our Zoo animals

Inquiry #1: Head to a suggested habitat for an inquiry.
Follow the steps below to complete an inquiry investigation about some of the Zoo's animals

Q: Question and observe - Spend 5 minutes observing the animals in their habitat. Write down some of the questions that you might have about some of the observations you have made. (ex. Do flamingos have a dominant leg they stand on when resting one-legged?)

U: Uncover the comparative question - Now, turn your original question into a comparative question that compares two variations of a chosen variable. (ex. Do the flamingos at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Veldt trail habitat spend more time standing on their left or right leg?)

E: Explore predictions - Based on what you have observed in your time in front of their habitat and what you know about the chosen animal, what do you predict that the answer to your comparative question will be?

S: Start an action plan - this is where you will form a plan and collect data! Decide as a group what the best method will be for collecting and recording data and then designate who will be responsible for the different roles for collecting data (ex. counting, timing, watching different animals, etc.). There is a data sheet included on the back of this packet to use for collecting timed data if needed.

T: Think hard about your findings -
- Was your prediction supported by the data you collected?

- Were there any challenges that you found when collecting data?

- Can you use what you learned to come up with other questions?

- Who do you think might want to know about the results of this study?

GREAT JOB! Feel free to share your discoveries and results with us!

Data Sheet

Date:
Timing of observation:

Time (min:sec)	Variable Version 1	Variable Version 2	Not Visible/notes