

National Zoo Scavenger Hunt

This hunt will send you all over the National Zoo looking for different, unique, and exciting facts about the animals here. Answers can be found on signs by the animals or from volunteer interpreters. Good luck and have fun! If you're visiting on a weekday, bring your completed scavenger hunt to the Education Office in the Visitor Center and pick up a panda photo.



True or False?

Find out if these statements are true or false, and mark a T for true and an F for false. For false statements, search for the truth.

- _____ Gibbons are among the small group of animals that are monogamous (mate for life).
- _____ The best way to tell individual cheetahs apart is to look at their spots.
- _____ Having a baby panda is difficult because adults are only able to mate during a two- or three-day period once a year.
- _____ An Asian elephant's brain is larger than a fin whale's brain.
- _____ Guam rails have become endangered because too many brown tree snakes have eaten most of their food source.
- _____ Leaf-cutter ants bring leaves back to their underground tunnels to save them to eat later in the day.
- _____ Komodo dragons are more closely related to modern lizards than dragons and dinosaurs.
- _____ A hippopotamus can hold its breath for 20 minutes.
- _____ Red-fronted brown lemurs use their powerful hind legs to jump from tree to tree, traveling distances of more than ten feet.
- _____ Turtles don't have teeth but use their beak to take bites of their food. Frogs do have teeth and they swallow their food whole.

Who am I?

Read the clues and find these mysterious animals at the National Zoo. In most cases you only need the type of animal and not the specific animal (there is one exception to this).

I am a loud boisterous bird, and I kill my food by knocking it against trees or dropping it from high places. When I lay eggs, other non-breeding adults help in the incubation time.
Who am I? _____

I am a rodent who shares a large den with about 15 other sets of parents and identify my young by their scent. I am most closely related with the guinea pig.
Who am I? _____

I start each morning with a song, and I travel by using a hand-over-hand swinging method called “brachiation.” I may be considered a lesser ape, but only because of my smaller size.
Who am I? _____

I live and hunt alone. My roar can carry up to three miles away from me.
Who am I? _____

I am from Asia and am the largest animal that lives in trees.
Who am I? _____

I am having trouble because the prairie is disappearing, and most of my main source of food, prairie dogs, has disappeared. Now I am endangered.
Who am I? _____

I protect my nest with my powerful kicks, and I also protect humans’ homes like a guard dog would. I am also known as the national bird of South Africa.
Who am I? _____

I communicate with others of my kind using my ears, which have tufts of hair on the end. I catch my food by my vertical jumps, which allow me to snatch birds out of the air.
Who am I? _____

I was born in 1987, and I am the only one to use the O Line using the arm-over-arm traveling technique called “brachiation.”
Who am I? _____