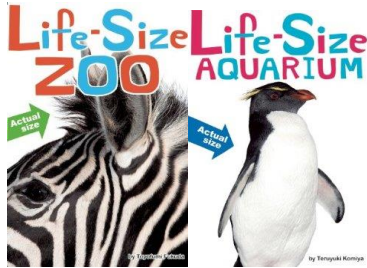


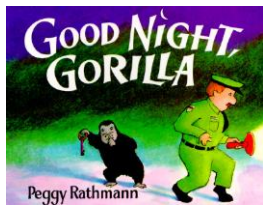
Zoo and Aquarium Read-Aloud Outline

Kids love wild animals. Explore the world of zoos or aquariums (the animals, the people who work there and the visitors) at your Read-Aloud session. Learn about specific animals or endangered species. Then let the kids try feeding the animals or making their own aquarium



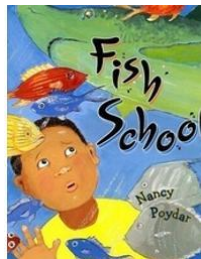
Life Size Zoo by Teruyuki Komiya
and **Life Size Aquarium** by Teruyuki Komiya
Ages 4 and up

Breathtaking, life-size photos of animals you'd find in a zoo make this picture book captivating for kids of all ages. Questions in a side bar encourage close examination of the photos. Fun facts inspire further exploration. (See also **More Life Size Zoo** by Teruyuki Komiya.)



Goodnight Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann
Ages 4 and up

In this nearly-wordless book, the zookeeper checks on each animal at bedtime. While he proceeds from animal to animal and then to his own home, the animals climb out of their cages and follow him. This is all presented through the illustrations and without using text, which creates a delightful feeling that we are in on the secret.



Fish School by Nancy Poydar
Ages 6 and up

When Charlie's class visits an aquarium, he brings his pet goldfish, Wishy, along in his backpack. The children see all kinds of amazing animals and Charlie feels Wishy is learning so much! But when they are ready to leave, Charlie realizes he has left his backpack somewhere in the aquarium. Will they find Wishy?

Additional zoo and aquarium books

Sam Who Never Forgets by Eve Rice (Ages 4 to 8)

Every day, Sam the zookeeper feeds the animals at the zoo. Each animal gets the special food she needs, but the elephant worries he's been forgotten.

If I Ran the Zoo by Dr. Seuss (Ages 6 and up)

What animals would you choose if you ran the zoo? While visiting the zoo, young Gerald McGrew imagines the animals he'd like to have, like a ten-footed lion! Crazy pictures and classic Seuss rhyme make this book great fun. (It is quite long, so you will need to read just part of it in a Read-Aloud setting.)

Pssst! By Adam Rex (Ages 5 and up)

What happens when animals at the zoo are bored? Speech-bubble text and fanciful illustrations make this book perfect for encouraging conversation and prediction.

My Visit to the Aquarium by Alikei (Ages 6 and up)

Detailed illustrations will captivate young readers. In this book, the displays for aquatic animals can be as amazing as the animals themselves.

The Aquarium Book by George Ancona (Ages 8 and up)

This picture book features photos from several famous aquariums, including the National Aquarium in Baltimore. The text describes both the animals and how an aquarium cares for and displays them. You could abridge the text to make it work for younger children.

Activities

Feed the animals. Did you know that zoo animals have to work for their food? Zookeepers sometimes hide food so the animals have to think and use their muscles to find the food. Keepers hide the foods in rubber hoses, burlap bags, paper towel rolls or paper lunch bags.

Material needed: Carrots, apples, pears, melon, lettuce, popcorn, cutting boards, bowls, veggie peelers, apple slicers, spoons, child-safe knives, salad spinner, knife for adult, paper towels, food surface sanitizer spray to clean work surfaces, rubber hose and bamboo stalks (in TRC office), empty paper towel or toilet paper rolls, empty paper lunch bags.

To prepare the food, have an adult cut the melon in half, and let the kids seed and cut into cubes with child-safe knives. Kids can peel carrots while an adult cuts them into chunks. Kids can wash lettuce in a salad spinner and cut apples with apple slicers.

Show kids how to hide food inside paper towel rolls or paper bags.

Let kids eat the food.

Make paper-plate aquariums. This simple aquarium diorama is made from two paper plates, construction paper and cellophane. Instructions can be found at <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/diorama/aquarium/>.

Kids can cut out the fish and other sea creatures while adults prepare the dioramas.



Play Sharks and Minnows or Lions and Antelopes. Directions for playing the game can be found at <http://www.playworks.org/blog/game-week-sharks-and-minnows>.

Conversation starters

1. What does it mean when an animal is endangered? What role can zoos and aquariums play in saving endangered animals?
2. Where in the world do the animals live? Bring a globe or world map and pictures of different animals. Ask the kids where each animal lives and then find the place on the map. Ask how the kids would re-create the animal's habitat if they had to create a place for it at a zoo or aquarium.
3. What special care needs do very large and very small animals have? What about animals that are runners or live in a climate very different from that of the zoo location?