

Project goals and timeline

You are now a zookeeper at the _____ *[insert the name of your school]* Invertebrate Classroom Zoo. As a zookeeper, you have been asked to investigate and become an expert on an invertebrate animal, house the animal in the zoo, and design and conduct an investigation to help the zoo understand how to improve the living environment of the animal in captivity.

Day 1	Introduction to the project: You have been hired as zookeeper.
Day 2	As zookeepers, you will choose an animal from the list provided by the teacher. The list of invertebrates is a list of noninvasive species based on the criteria set forth by state and federal fish and wildlife organizations.
Days 3 and 4	Conduct background research and formulate three inquiry questions.
Day 5	Pick one inquiry question, formulate a hypothesis, and design an investigation to test the hypothesis. Your teacher will introduce you to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) requirements. Be sure to take into consideration these requirements when planning the design of the project.
Day 6	Fill out the Animal Research Request Form (Figure 6), including your research design proposal. Submit to the IACUC.
Day 7	Review investigation proposals during IACUC meetings.
Day 8	Once the teacher has given final approval of your project, set up housing for your animals.
Day 9	When final approval is obtained and your housing is set up, you will be issued your animals; you are now an official zookeeper. You will be responsible for the life and containment of the animals for your study.
Days 9–13	Conduct your investigation.
Day 13	At the end of the project, animals are returned to the teacher with the end-of-project care instructions approved by the IACUC.
Days 14 and 15	Design and put together your formal presentation, including a visual aide.
Day 16 and 17	Present your research and findings to the class.