

Research tasks

Your team will have two days to research information about your animal. As a zookeeper, you will need to have expert knowledge about your animal in order to contain it and maintain its health.

1. While you are researching, begin developing an inquiry question to investigate.
2. At the end of each day of research, summarize what you found. Be sure to keep track of sources used, as you will need to cite your sources in your presentation.
3. During your research, figure out what you need to provide a safe, comfortable habitat for your animal in the classroom. You'll need to find answers to the following:
 - a. What is the basic anatomy of your animal? What organelles does your animal have and what are the functions?
 - b. What special characteristics does your animal have that distinguish it from other animals? What can your animal do?
 - c. Where does your animal live? What is its habitat (moisture, temperature, space requirements, type of material the animal lives in)?
 - How can you mimic this habitat in the classroom?
 - d. What is your animal attracted to for food? How does your animal obtain food?
 - How will you provide food for your animal in the classroom?
 - e. What types of environmental conditions are necessary for your animal to survive? Make sure your research is complete and thorough.
 - For example, one need of earthworms is a moist environment because they breathe through their skin.
 - How will you maintain the proper conditions for your animal?
 - f. What time of day is your animal most active? What effect will this have on your experiment?
 - g. What type of container is needed to house the animal?
 - h. Be sure to include information highlighting what you will need to keep the animal alive away from its natural habitat for one week.
 - What kinds of experiments have been conducted on your animal already?
 - What can you learn from the experimental procedures about the care of the animal?
 - What did the researchers learn and what would be the next question you could investigate?
4. By the end of day 4 you should have developed three inquiry questions to investigate about your animal. Here are some examples:
 - a. Do snails consume more leaf matter at night or during the day?
 - b. Which type of matter do earthworms pull underground the quickest, leaves or grass clippings?
 - c. Is the heart rate of a snail affected by the amount of light it is exposed to?
 - d. Crayfish that are exposed to a sudden flash of light will hide; will the crayfish continue to hide if it is exposed to many sequential flashes of light?
 - e. Do planarians navigate a maze with three turns just as fast as a maze with four turns?