



Teacher's Guide

For the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Docent Auxiliary

Puppet Programs

The Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Docent Auxiliary is a group of dedicated and knowledgeable docent volunteers who take pride in bringing the zoo, via puppet shows, to students and teachers. The Auxiliary *Zoopeters* will come to your school free of charge from the end of October to the end of March.

Bringing the puppet shows to your school allows students to connect learning of concepts from their curriculum that are linked directly to grade level specific **2025 Colorado Academic Life Science and/or 2022 Social Studies Standards**. We have made the connection for you in how our *Zoopeteer* programs tie into the Colorado Academic Standards!

From Kindergarten to 2nd grade students, the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Docent Auxiliary offers unique learning opportunities via our puppet shows. Students can learn about animals, their adaptations, and their habitats.

Don't delay! Give us a call and schedule a *Zoopeteer* experience for your students!

Marie Poyzer
Zoopeteer Coordinator
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Auxiliary
marieacp@yahoo.com
719-659-3075



Puppet Shows Zoopeteer Programs

Description of Zoopeteer Programs: Do you want to have your students totally entertained and learn key science concepts about animals that are grounded in the Colorado Academic Standards and grade level expectations? Then the Zoopeteer Programs are for your students!

The Zoopeteers introduce the exciting world of animals, their characteristics and habitats, through an entertaining and very educational puppet presentation by the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Auxiliary performing troupe.

Targeted Audience: Preschool, Kindergarten, First, and Second Grades

(A description of the various puppet shows follows on the next page.)

When Offered: Tuesday & Thursday; late October through March with limited availability. (No Wednesdays). Please schedule early as Zoopeteer Programs fill up quickly!

Show Time: 35-45 minutes in length.

All shows are presented from a portable stage requiring 12 sq. feet of space plus sitting room, in one location for all presentations.

Charge: Free!!

Although there is no charge for these Zoopeteer Presentations (a public service of the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Auxiliary), a donation to the program would be gratefully received to cover costs of the stage, props and puppets for our Zoopeteers.

Zoopeteers prefer to present more than one show on a given day and generally do not return to the same school during the performance season. So teachers should coordinate with other classes and grades for show times and select presentations **at the appropriate grade levels.**

Contact the Zoopeteer Coordinator: Marie Poyzer
Phone: 719- 659-3075 or E-mail at marieacp@yahoo.com

Preschool & Kindergarten Programs

Bear Cub is Lost

Some animals invite a lost bear cub to share their homes and food.

Hippo-NOT-umus

Children will laugh and learn watching this puppet show based on a story that tells how important adaptations such as the elephant's trunk are to an animal's life. Portly the hippo tries to be other animals but finds that his own life is best for him.

First Grade Programs

Hippo-NOT-umus

Children will laugh and learn watching this puppet show based on a story that tells how important adaptations such as the elephant's trunk are to an animal's life. Portly the hippo tries to be other animals but finds that his own life is best for him.

What's My Habitat?

This Zoopeteer Presentation discusses habitats and opens with three animals in the wrong habitats. After they find their correct habitats, they play a guessing game with clues about other animals and where they live.

Home for Polar Bear

An unhappy polar bear magically visits various habitats and finally discovers that an Arctic home is best for him.

Arctic

Penguin is lost in the Arctic. While there, Penguin learns about various arctic animals before returning to his home south of the equator.

The Waterhole

Ms. Docent and Cheyenne meet several animals at a waterhole in Africa (Kenya) and learn about these creatures and their surroundings.

Second Grade Programs

What's My Habitat?

This Zoopeteer Presentation discusses habitats and opens with three animals in the wrong habitats. After they find their correct habitats, they play a guessing game with clues about other animals and where they live.

The Brave Little Tree Frog

An adventurous tree frog, with help from his friends, journeys across South America to save the rain forests.

Colorado Wild

Ms. Docent and Cheyenne visit the different life zones of Colorado learning about the animals and plants in each zone.

Arctic

Penguin is lost in the Arctic. While there, Penguin learns about various arctic animals before returning to his home south of the equator.

Colorado Academic Standards and Grade Level Expectations for Puppet Shows

Colorado Science Standard 2: Life Science:

Students know and understand the characteristics and structure of living things, the process of life, and how living things interact with each other and their environment.

Grade Level Expectation:

Preschool: *Recognize that living things have unique characteristics and basic needs that can be observed and studied.*

Kindergarten: *To live and grow, animals obtain food they need from plants or other animals, ...*

1st Grade: *All organisms have external parts that they use to perform daily functions.*

Young organisms are very much, but not exactly, like their parents, and also resemble other organisms of the same kind.

2nd Grade: *A range of different organisms live in different places.*

Colorado Social Studies Standard #2: Geography:

The study of geography creates an informed person with an understanding of spatial perspective and technologies for spatial analysis; and an awareness of the interdependence of the world regions and resources, and how places are connected at the local, national, and global scales. Students understand the complexity and interrelatedness of people, places, and environments. Geography helps students appreciate the dynamic relationships and complexity of the world.

Grade Level Expectation:

Kindergarten: *Recognize that geographic tools represent places and spaces.*

1st Grade: *Locate places and spaces using geographic tools.*

2nd Grade: *Use geographic terms and tools to describe places and spaces.*

Call us today to schedule an educational experience for your students whether it be a Zoopeteer program at your school, or Classroom Safari and Docent Led Tour at our beautiful Cheyenne Mountain Zoo!