

Upper KS2

What are zoos for?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/what-are-zoos-for/z649f4j>



What do you already know?

Write the word **zoos** in the middle of your page. Write everything you already know about zoos around this. You might also include the names of any zoos you have visited or heard about, what you would expect to see there, what you would expect to do etc. A couple of examples have been done to start you off.

Places to see
different animals

Chester Zoo

Zoos

Wonderful Words

Here are the meanings of some of the words (in bold) in the text. In your workbooks, organise the words into alphabetical order and then write the meanings next to them to make a glossary.

If you have a dictionary or can get online, you could check out the meaning.

Goodness, decency and justice	Out of the ordinary, perhaps from a distant foreign country	Caring for and protecting something	A place to see animals in their natural environment
Relating to animals or the animal kingdom	Enjoyment and/or entertainment	A collection or exhibition of wild animals	Imprisoned or confined
Relating to a town or city	Meeting with others	A brand new idea very different to normal	Been around/worked
Possibility or probability of something happening in a successful way	Moving around freely	An area surrounded by a barrier	To try really hard

When you read the text, you might find other words to add to the glossary.

Read the text three times

First time – to get the overall meaning

Second time – underline or highlight all the benefits of zoos

Third time – underline or highlight (in a different colour or with a wiggly line) all the disadvantages of zoos

What are zoos for?

Do we need zoos today?

Each year 25 million of us visit a UK zoo, enjoying the **thrill** of getting close to **exotic** creatures. But is there more to zoos than public **amusement**?

Since the days of the first **menageries**, when wild animals were caged for human pleasure, zoos and public opinion on zoos have been mixed. Today, they not only entertain us on a family day out, zoos also engage in research, **conservation** and education.

However, when nature documentaries teach us so much about animal behaviour in the wild, is there still value in keeping animals **captive** in a zoo?

How did zoos come about?

Zoos have **operated** in one form or another since the Middle Ages, when the Tower of London hosted a menagerie of exotic creatures from lions to camels.

The creation of the modern zoo

The 20th Century saw huge changes for British zoos.

Removing the bars

Edinburgh was the first British zoo to be **inspired** by the idea of displaying animals without bars, opening in 1913. **Zoological** parks opened at Chester and Whipsnade in 1931. These were the first non-**urban** zoos with larger enclosures.

Creating safari environments

In 1966 a **revolutionary** idea arrived in Britain – the first drive-through **safari** park opened at Longleat, Wiltshire. Wild animals could be observed **roaming** across acres and **interacting** more freely, to the delight of visitors and the fear of locals.

Change in public attitudes

By the 1980s the British public was questioning the **morality** of keeping animals captive. Nature documentaries had revealed how these animals lived in the wild. The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 required zoos to educate the public, and they stopped capturing most of their animals from the wild and turned to breeding programmes.

Focus on conservation

In 1959 Gerald Durrell opened a zoo in Jersey – the first to put conservation above all else. But it wasn't until the 1990s that other zoos took on the mission to save the most threatened species in the world.

Saving animals from extinction

With potentially thousands of species going extinct every year, zoos have taken on a role in preserving the very animals they hold in captivity.

Specialist animal care

Animal care is central to the work of zoos like Chester, which continually strive to improve their knowledge and practices.

If you can get online, go to this link and watch the video clips which will give you extra information.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/what-are-zoos-for/z649f4j>

Illustrations and Captions

Imagine you are going to read this text to a younger child. It needs some pictures and captions. Think of four places where you think it would help to have a picture or photograph. Draw the picture and write a caption to go with it.



Question Time!

These questions can be done in any order. The green questions are easier to get your brain warmed up. The yellow questions are a bit harder and the purple questions are the challenge. See how many you can do.

Which phrase tells us that a lot of people visit zoos in this country?

Why were safari parks considered a 'revolutionary idea'?

Why did the public's attitude to zoos change in the 1980s?

Which three zoos were the first to provide bigger and better enclosures for their animals?

What was the purpose of early zoos?

In the paragraph about safari parks, why do you think it refers to 'the delight of visitors and the fear of locals'?

What is the name given to a zoo where animals roam freely in their natural environment?

How have zoos changed from when they first originated to what they are today?

Who was the first person to focus his zoo only on conservation?

Write down three facts that you found the most interesting in the text.

Which of the zoos mentioned would you like to visit and why?

Zoos – Pros and Cons

Use the information in the text to complete this table of the pros and cons of zoos. Can you think of any of your own points to add in?

Pros (Advantages)	Cons (Disadvantages)

Zoos – Pros and Cons 2

Here are some more arguments for and against zoos. Decide which are pros and which are cons and add them to your table.

<p>A visit to the zoo is a fun, educational day out for families.</p>	<p>Zoos have limited space and so animals are kept in spaces that are smaller than the space they'd have in the wild. For example, elephants can walk 50km in a day; they may not have this much space in captivity.</p>	<p>Endangered animals can be placed in breeding programs to try and raise numbers. They may be reintroduced into the wild.</p>
<p>Many animals that are kept in zoos are not endangered.</p>	<p>Animals in zoos may be lonely, as large numbers of them cannot be kept. For example, elephants normally live in packs of 30 - 40 but this number could not be kept in captivity together.</p>	<p>Many zoos teach people about animals and how we can prevent their extinction. This is done through talks and through signs displayed around the enclosures.</p>
<p>Animal enclosures are designed to be as close to natural habitats as possible. They are also designed to stimulate animals and stop them becoming bored. For example, ropes to swing on for monkeys.</p>	<p>Animals in captivity can develop irregular behaviours, this is known as zoochosis. Examples of behaviours of animals with this condition include: rocking/swaying, pacing/circling, over grooming/self-harm.</p>	<p>Some people believe that it is unfair for animals to be used for human entertainment.</p>
<p>Animals behave differently in captivity to the way that they would in the wild, this means that scientists are not able to observe an animal's normal behaviour.</p>	<p>Animals are fed and well looked after. If they require healthcare receive assistance they are seen by vets.</p>	<p>The weather in outdoor enclosures may not reflect that of where the animals come from.</p>
<p>Zookeepers have knowledge about the animals they work with, this means that they can look after them appropriately and give them activities to keep them occupied.</p>	<p>Scientists can get close to animals to observe and research them. This information may be used to help the species in the wild or to avoid extinction.</p>	<p>Strict procedures are followed to acquire new animals; they cannot just be taken from the wild.</p>

Source: <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/balanced-argument-should-animals-be-kept-in-zoos-11501461>

English Writing Challenge

Do you think zoos are a good idea?

Write a balanced argument using the pros and cons from your table. Here are some conjunctions and adverbs and sentence starters to help you structure your writing.

Some people believe...

On the one hand....

On the other hand...

However....

Although....

It is thought...

Some might say...

Research has shown...

Nevertheless....

Going to the Zoo

Daddy's taking us to the zoo tomorrow,
Zoo tomorrow, zoo tomorrow
Daddy's taking us to the zoo tomorrow
And we can stay all day

We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo
How about you, you, you?
You can come too, too, too
We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo

See the elephant with the long trunk swinging
Great big ears and a long trunk swinging
Snuffing up peanuts with a long trunk swinging
And we can stay all day

We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo
How about you, you, you
You can come too, too, too
We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo

See all the monkeys they're scritch-scritch scratching
Jumping around and scritch-scritch scratching
Hanging by the long-tail scritch-scritch scratching
And we can stay all day

We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo
How about you, you, you
You can come too, too, too
We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo

There's a big black bear he's a huff-puff-a-puffing
His coat's too heavy he's a huff-puff-a-puffing
Don't get too near the huff-puff-a-puffing
Or you won't stay all day

We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo
How about you, you, you
You can come too, too, too
We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo

Well the seals in the pool all honk-honk-honking
Catching the fish and honk-honk-honking
Little tiny seals all honk-honk-honking
And we can stay all day

We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo
How about you, you, you

You can come too, too, too
We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo

Well we stayed all day and I'm getting sleepy
Sittin' in the car getting sleep sleep sleepy
Home already getting sleep sleep sleepy
'Cause we have stayed all day

We been to the zoo zoo zoo
So have you you you
You came too too too
We been to the zoo zoo zoo

Mummy's taking Us To The Zoo Tomorrow
Zoo tomorrow, zoo tomorrow!
Mummy's taking us to the zoo tomorrow
And we can stay all day

We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo
How about you, you, you
You can come too, too, too
We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo

We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo
How about you, you, you
You can come too, too, too
We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo

Source: [LyricFind](#)

Songwriters: Tom Paxton

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