The Texas Zoo is the national zoo of Texas as it is home to mostly native Texan animals. However many exotic animals call it home as well. Located in the Riverside Park of Victoria, the Texas Zoo houses over 350 animals within 6 acres. As a zoo, it purposes to connect people with the natural wild, and advance conservation through education, recreation, science and action.

The 3 largest groups of animals at The Texas Zoo are: Mammals, Reptiles and Birds.

Tier 1  under 8 years old

1. Write down 5 animals you can find in The Texas Zoo and determine if they are a Mammal, Reptile or Bird.

2. The Texas Zoo is home to many snakes. Find 3 different kinds of snakes and write their names down.

3. Pick a mammal in The Texas Zoo, take a picture for your scrap book and spend 5 minutes observing your animal. Look at its coloring and markings and notice what it is doing? What does their exhibit look like? Is their more than one?

Camouflage is extremely important to an animal’s survival in the wild. Camouflage is used to hide an animal from something else. Usually it is a hunter from food or food from hunters. The animals are also called Predator and Prey. As you walk through the Zoo try to observe which animals would be considered predators and which would be considered prey.

Tier 2  9 years old– 17 years old

1. List 5 animals that you would consider predators.

2. List 5 animals that you would consider prey.

3. List 3 animals that you would consider both predators and prey.

4. Make a food chain with 3 animals found in the Zoo. Example:// mouse-snake-hawk

Animals can be found in their home range which has everything it needs to survive. An animal found outside of its normal range will more than likely not survive. This could be due to extreme weather conditions or lack of appropriate food.

Tier 3  Adult and Winter Texans

Utilizing the range maps…

1. Find and list 10 animals that are found in Texas. Note their color and markings.

3. Find 3 animals that can be found in more than one continent.

4. Draw the continent of Africa. Find 3 African animals from 3 different areas and locate their range on your drawing.
Bonus #1 An animal's life in the zoo is much more predictable than in the wild. Enrichment refers to ways we can encourage activity that the animal would normally do in the wild and make their lives more exciting. Enrichment includes adding scents, painting the exhibit differently, hiding their food, placing toys in their exhibit and much more. For this challenge, determine a challenging yet safe enrichment to provide for one of the animals. Use your local library, internet, and even zoo staff to learn about the animal, its natural habitat, its eating habits, etc. Include a written description and drawing of your enrichment. Either mail, email, or drop off this bonus at the Texas Zoo.

Bonus #2 Learn the name of the new resident Jaguar.

Bonus #3 Take a Selfie with a Zoo Keeper.

Leave completed mission with gift shop attendant.