



**MINNESOTA ZOO**  
Changing how you see the world

# Animal Conservation Tour of the Tropics Onsite Activity

## **MN Graduation Standards supported:**

### Grade 7 Strand IV.B

The student will understand that living systems, at every level of organization, demonstrate the complementary nature of structure and function.

### Grade 7 Strand IV.C

The student will understand that within ecosystems, complex interactions exist between organisms and the physical environment.

### Grades 9-12 Stand IV.B

The student will describe how the environment and interactions between organisms can affect the number of species and the diversity of species in an ecosystem.

## **Vocabulary:**

Grooming  
Canopy

## **Links:**

Minnesota Zoo website  
[www.mnzoo.org](http://www.mnzoo.org)

## **Introduction:**

The Tropics Trail at the Minnesota Zoo gives students a great overview of current conservation issues. Throughout the trail are signs highlighting various issues which are either the direct or indirect contributors to the threatened or endangered animals of the trail. The tropics trail also provides students with an appreciation for the rich diversity of life in the tropical regions of the world and their value to the natural world as well as the undeveloped and developed world.

## **Objectives:**

At the end of this lesson, the students will:

1. Gain an understanding and hopefully appreciation for the sensitive and perilous plight of our tropical regions of the world.
2. Report back about numerous animals which are threatened or endangered.
3. Be able to list contributing factors to the decline in animal species in these regions.

## **Procedure:**

1. Use the Tropics Trail worksheet for the activity.
2. It is a self-directed as they walk the Tropics Trail from beginning to end.