Ecology
Animal Spotlight
Post-visit Activity

MN Graduation Standards supported:

Grades 9-12 Strand IV.F
The student will describe and explain the cycling of matter and flow of energy through an ecosystem's living and nonliving components

Introduction:

Animals are usually found in the habitats they are physically and behaviorally well adapted for. Over time, natural selection results in adaptations that enhance survival in the face of different predators, varying food sources, extremes in temperature and moisture conditions. Balanced food webs (flow of energy from plants to top predators) form the basis of successful ecosystems

Objectives:

At the end of this lesson, the students will:

1. Analyze an animal exhibit.
2. Document the different types of behavior observed.
3. Become aware of the key ecological concepts.

Procedure:

1. Back in the classroom, the individual or small group of students will share informally with the class highlights of observations they made in the "Animal Spotlight" activity at the zoo (see Animal Spotlight onsite activity)
2. Students may use their observation sheet (if they need it), or show other pictures they may have taken of the exhibit they selected to analyze.