

Field Trip Study Guide
Old Zoo

The Old Zoo is the original location of the Los Angeles Zoo we know and love today. Established in 1912, much has changed about how we run Zoos and treat/house animals. Please complete the following tasks before, during, and after your visit to the Old Zoo.

Pre-Trip Questions

1. What is the purpose of zoos?
2. Choose TWO animals from the list below. For each one, design an ideal zoo enclosure for that animal*. Your design should consist of a labeled drawing that clearly describes why each component of enclosure needs to be there. (*What purpose does it serve? How does the enclosure meet the needs of the animal?*)
 - a. Polar Bear
 - b. Honey Bear
 - c. Penguin
 - d. Lion
 - e. Llama
 - f. Spider Monkey
 - g. Giant Tortoise
 - h. Bactrian Camel
 - i. Zebra
 - j. Leopard
 - k. Kangaroo
 - l. Antelope
 - m. Elephant

**Note: You may have to do some research about these animals to find out what they need in a habitat*

Trip Questions

1. Why are the walls of the first enclosure constructed where the top extends out over the lower parts of the wall?
2. Check the steps in the back of the enclosure. What do you notice about them? What safety concerns would the steps present to humans and animals as they move up and down them?
3. Do the habitats mimic the biomes of the animals? How might this construction impact the animals that live there?
4. In the early days of the zoo, there were many issues with carnivores eating or injuring the animals housed next to them. Look at the construction of the cages and explain why you think this is.
5. Notice how the cages are connected. What sorts of safety concerns might you have if you were a zookeeper that needed to clean an enclosure?
6. The small cages were home to birds and small primates (monkeys). What might be an issue with housing those animals near one another?
7. If you hike around to the back, you can see the places where the animals were kept at night when they were not on display. Carefully enter and record what you notice about the night spaces.
8. Even at the current zoo (and zoos around the world), many animals are taken to back areas to sleep at night rather than being kept on display in their habitats. Why do you think this is?

Post-Trip Reflection

1. After viewing the enclosures at the Old Zoo, what do you think the purpose of zoos were prior to the move to the new location in 1966? Is this the same or different from what you thought prior to viewing the Old Zoo?
2. All of the animals on the list provided in the pre-trip questions were once housed at the Old Zoo. How did the enclosures you saw at the Old Zoo compare to the enclosure you designed for the same animals?
3. How did the enclosures you saw at the Old Zoo compare to the enclosures at the current LA Zoo?
4. What might be some of the reasons for the shift in the way we run our zoo now versus during the Old Zoo?