



CONNECTIONS TO AFRICA

TEACHER & CHAPERONE GUIDE

////// AFRICAN ////
**ELEPHANT
CROSSING**

////// ◆ ////
CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO





Getting Started

- Use the tools inside this kit to explore and navigate African Elephant Crossing and experience *Connections to Africa*.
- The notes and examples provided within this guide are for the use of the adults leading the group. Please allow children to develop their own ideas and hypotheses.
- **PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS GUIDE.**
- You can visit the stations in any order that your group chooses.

HAVE FUN!



Survival Need | Space

- Look at the amount of space in the part of the exhibit where you are viewing the elephants.
- How **BIG** do you think this space is? How might you measure it? Record your answers on the **Survival Need Data** sheet on the provided clipboard.
- Try to estimate the size of this space using a measurement method of your choice.
 - ✓ Your group can be as creative as you like. Think of all the different measuring tools that you could use. Are there any other things that you could use to measure?

Survival Need | Food

- Look into the exhibit at an area where the elephants may have been. Your group can pick any location.
- Do you see any signs that an elephant has been eating? Record your answer on the **Survival Need Data** sheet on the provided clipboard.
- What types of signs could you look for? Can you tell what types of food the elephants have been eating?



Animal Behavior

- Do you think that elephants act the same way when they are inside the building as they do when they are outside in either of the different yards?
- What do *YOU* think?
 - ✓ Make a guess. (This is called making a **hypothesis**). There are no wrong guesses.
- Now help to find out the answer...
- Find an elephant in the exhibit and go stand where you can easily observe them.
- Choose only **ONE** elephant to watch.
- For 3 minutes, watch that **ONE** elephant and record the behaviors that you see it doing.
 - ✓ (eating, walking, drinking, head-bobbing, etc.)
- Use the **Animal Behavior Data** sheet on the provided clipboard inside of your Inquiry Backpack to record the observations you see.



Reporting Your Data

- An important part of being a scientist at the Zoo is to be sure to add **YOUR** findings to the findings of other scientists.
- Find the Zoo Volunteer with a computer. They may be outside in the Kgotla or inside the Sydell L. Miller Elephant Care & Visitor Center. Report to them and enter into the computer the observations your group collected.
 - ✓ This is our Master Database, a place that we store **ALL** of the *Connections to Africa* data collected by scientists just like you!
- If another group is using the computer, please feel free to visit another station before returning to enter your data into the computer.



Get-Close Encounter

- Elephants are not the only animals found throughout Africa. They share their habitat with many different types of animals.
- Find the Zoo Volunteer holding an African animal. They may be outside in the Kgotla or inside the Sydell L. Miller Elephant Care & Visitor Center.
- Go over to meet this volunteer and their animal. If you listen carefully and follow instructions, you might even be able to touch this animal!

More Survival Needs

- Explore throughout African Elephant Crossing and see if you can find **FIVE** basic needs every elephant must have to survive day to day life. Record your answers on the **Survival Need Data** sheet on the provided clipboard.
- Depending on the order in which you complete this program, you may have already learned about two basic needs in an elephant's life.
- Make sure to observe everything around you and read all of the signs you can find throughout the exhibit.



Survival Need Data

Survival Need | Space:

How BIG do you think the exhibit space is?

How did you estimate the amount of space?

Survival Need | Food:

What signs did you see that an elephant had been eating?

What are the FIVE basic needs every elephant must have to survive day to day life?



Animal Behavior Data

School or Group Name: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Weather Conditions (What's the weather like outside today?)

Where are the animals? _____

How many are there? _____

What are the distinguishing characteristics of the ONE animal that your group has chosen to study?

Over a 3 minute period, record all of the behaviors that your group observes the selected animal doing. **Circle the one** that you observed your animal doing MOST of the time.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Good work scientists!

Remember to report your observations and help enter your findings into the computer.



Return Your Backpack

- Now that you have completed your exploration of African Elephant Crossing, hopefully you and your group feels a *Connection to Africa*.
- Please remember to **RETURN THE ENTIRE BACKPACK AND ALL OF ITS CONTENTS** to a Zoo Volunteer at the Information Booth where you picked it up.



////// AFRICAN ////
**ELEPHANT
CROSSING**

////// ◆ ////
CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO



3900 Wildlife Way, Cleveland, Ohio 44109 ◆ (216) 661-6500 ◆ clemet zoo.com



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER