

## Everybody Eats

We've created Zoo Tracks to guide your educational visit to Lincoln Park Zoo, complete with animal descriptions to prompt discussions with your students.

All animals have special adaptations that enable them to track down prey or elude hungry predators. In this installment of Zoo Tracks—Everybody Eats—we focus on the hunters, the hunted and those that are both!

### The Hunters...

Some predators have sharp claws and powerful teeth for catching, killing and eating prey. Forward-facing eyes help some judge distances when stalking animals. They may also have coloring that helps them camouflage into their surroundings, making it easier to sneak up on moving meals.

### ...and the Hunted.

Prey animals have many ways to protect themselves. Some have camouflaged coloring that helps them hide from predators. Others use behaviors that help them escape their hunters, such as digging underground or fleeing on long, nimble legs. Some even have bright coloring that warns predators that they taste badly or may even be poisonous.



## What Now?

### At the Zoo...

Apply what you learned about predators and prey animals as you explore the rest of the zoo.

### Back at Home...

The zoo isn't the only place you can learn about animal predation. Try one of these Zoo Tracks activities in your classroom or neighborhood. Record what you discover in a science notebook like a zoologist would!

- Spend some time watching sparrows. Based on what they eat and the way they move, would you consider them predators or prey?
- Watch a dog or cat play with a chew toy. How do they use their claws and teeth while playing with this "prey"?
- Pay special attention to the way squirrels and rabbits search for food. Why do you think they move quickly and startle easily?

### Want to Know More?

Lincoln Park Zoo has a host of education programs that can help you understand our zoo animals and their counterparts in the wild. To find out more about what's coming up, visit [www.lpzoo.org/education](http://www.lpzoo.org/education).

# Let's Make Tracks!

Visit these five animals to learn more about predators and prey animals. Start with #1 and work your way through the zoo!

*If an animal is not visible on the day of your visit, simply add an exhibit of your choice.*

## 1. African Lions



Lions have sharp claws, big paws and strong limbs that enable them to capture prey. The big cats grab and hold prey with sharp teeth, which enable them to chew through tough meat. Lions often secretly stalk their prey before pouncing.

- How would their tan fur help them to stalk their prey without being noticed?
- Why would strong limbs and sharp claws be helpful?

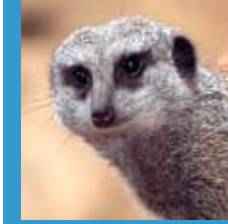
## 2. Bald Eagles



These aerial predators eat fish, small mammals and other species of birds. Their forward-facing eyes and sharp vision help them spot prey from far away.

- How do you think their sharp claws or talons help them catch prey?
- How do you think the sharp beak helps them eat meat?

## 3. Meerkats



These animals are both predators and prey. They use their sharp claws to dig up insects to eat. They also need to protect themselves from predators like jackals and eagles.

- What do you see the meerkats doing that would help them spot a predator?
- How do you think they hide from predators?

## 4. Dyeing Poison Arrow Frogs



Rather than camouflage, some prey animals want to be seen. This frog's bright colors warn predators that they are poisonous and not a good choice for a meal. Like all frogs, they

also have strong legs that help them hop quickly away from danger.

- Describe the colors you see. How are they different from other frogs you might know about?

## 5. Waterfowl



Our pond has several different species of waterfowl, all of which work hard to protect themselves from predators. Some may swim quickly, dive deep or take flight to escape predators.

Females may have camouflaged coloring so they can hide without having to leave their nest.

- Which of these protective adaptations or behaviors can you see?

