

ZOO TRACKS

LINCOLN PARK ZOO

Meets Illinois State Science Standard 12B
Meets Illinois State Social Science Standards 17A

Lincoln Park
Zoo

Urban Wildlife Watching

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

You don't have to go to the rain forest to see wildlife. In this installment of Zoo Tracks – titled Urban Wildlife Watching – we explore wildlife watching that can be done right here in Chicago at Nature Boardwalk at Lincoln Park Zoo.



Plan a Visit

For lodging info, visit www.choosechicago.com.

Take the CTA

Lincoln Park Zoo is accessible via bus routes 151 and 156 and the Brown Line El (exit at Armitage and walk east). For travel information, contact the RTA/CTA at 312-836-7000 or www.transitchicago.com.



What else can you do?

At the Zoo...

Strolling along Nature Boardwalk isn't the only place at the zoo where you can find urban wildlife. In addition to the zoo's animals, you might see other animals that make their home on zoo grounds. What "visitors" did you see?

Back at Home...

Looking carefully around your own neighborhood you are likely to find many different types of plants and animals. You might want to record what you discover in a notebook like a field biologist would!

- How many different kinds of plants can you find on your block?
- What types of birds do you see first thing in the morning?
- Do any insects make their home near yours?
- Have you seen squirrels foraging for food nearby?

Want to Know More?

Lincoln Park Zoo has different education programs that can help you learn even more about our zoo animals and their wild relatives. To find out more about upcoming programs, visit our web site at: www.lpzoo.org/education



Nature
Boardwalk
LINCOLN PARK ZOO

Urban Exploration

You can use your time at Nature Boardwalk to monitor life like a field biologist simply by keeping your eyes and ears open. A variety of species make their home here and different animals will be visible depending on the time of day and season. Using your different senses, what can you discover on your visit?

Making Careful Observations

Many animals are able to survive because they can camouflage or hide well within their habitat. For example, turtles may camouflage with nearby rocks and mud. Making careful observations and having patience will be the best way to spot the different species that make their home at the pond. You may also want to spend some time looking closely at the variety of plants you encounter. What differences in leaf shape and color do you notice?

Listening for Unique Sounds

Sometimes you hear an animal before you see it. This is especially true for birds. Take a moment to step to the side of the boardwalk and close your eyes. Do you hear anything that indicates an animal is nearby? How many different sounds do you hear?

Smelling Special Scents

A living environment like this pond comes with a variety of different smells. Some of these odors may be new to you and others may be familiar. It may be the scent of a flower or a decomposing leaf—every day is sure to be different. Settle in somewhere and close your eyes. What smell do you notice first? Can you identify where it's coming from?

Only Touching Carefully

This is a place where the plants and animals are protected. For that reason, we encourage you to be respectful and only rely on this sense at the special areas we've set up for touching.

