

ВСЕРОССИЙСКАЯ ОЛИМПИАДА ШКОЛЬНИКОВ ПО АНГЛИЙСКОМУ ЯЗЫКУ
2024-2025 уч.г
МУНИЦИПАЛЬНЫЙ ЭТАП.
9 -11 классы

SPEAKING

Set 1

Preparation (10 minutes)

Presentation and questions (15 minutes)

Task 1

1. Monologue. Time: 3-4 minutes.

Imagine you are a guide telling a tourist about **the Moscow Zoo**. You need to

- comment on the 5 aspects mentioned above;
- remember to make an introduction and conclusion.

Prepare to speak **about the Moscow Zoo** using the Fact File. You will have to comment on:

- general information and history of the zoo;
- areas and attractions of the zoo;
- educational and research work;
- notable animals;
- the ways of getting to the zoo.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you **are not allowed to read them** when you answer.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, not mentioned in your presentation.

Task 2

Now you are a tourist.

1. Listen to your partner's presentation.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Ask 2 QUESTIONS **about the London Zoo** to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in the presentation.

2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

Fact file

Moscow Zoo

The **Moscow Zoo** or **Moskovsky Zoopark** is one of the oldest zoos in Europe, dating back to 1864. Located in the city centre, the zoo is a favourite place for families with children and a popular tourist attraction. At weekends and during holidays, there are long queues in front of the ticket offices by the central entrance. The zoo is home to about 1,132 species, second only to the Berlin Zoological Garden in the European rankings. Primates, elephants, giraffes, tigers, lions, brown bears and polar bears, penguins, rare birds, and seals are kept on a 22-ha plot of land.

History

It was founded in 1864 by professor-biologists, K.F. Rulje, S.A. Usov and A.P. Bogdanov, from Moscow State University. In 1919, the zoo was nationalized. In 1922, the ownership was transferred to the Government of Moscow and has remained under Moscow's control ever since.

The zoo had an area of 10 hectares (25 acres) when it first opened, with 286 animals. In 1926, the zoo was expanded to adjacent lands, increasing the area to 18 hectares (44 acres). The zoo's original buildings were wooden, built in the Old Russian style with intricate wooden trims.

During World War II, the Moscow Zoo remained open though much of the park was destroyed.

In 1990, the zoo was renovated. Notable additions include a new main entrance in the shape of a large rock castle, and a footbridge that connected the old (1864) and new (1926) properties of the zoo. Prior to construction of the footbridge, the zoo operated as two 'separate zoos' because Bolshaya Gruzinskaya Street divided the properties.

In addition, the zoo was expanded once more. In 1997 new exhibitions were opened including a sea aquarium, an aviary, a night creatures' exhibition, a sea lion exhibition and a section aimed at children. Waterfalls and streams were added throughout to give the zoo a more natural feeling.

The latest renovation of the zoo took place in 2014. That year the zoo celebrated its 150th anniversary. As a result, the pony riding circle, the internal enclosures of the Monkey House, rooms for nutria, otters, wolverines, aviaries for animals of South America and Australia, the "Bird Row" were completely updated. The most noticeable change was the renewal of ponds on the Old territory.

Areas and attractions

The Moscow Zoo consists of two areas - the 'Old' and 'New'. They are connected with a footbridge across Bolshaya Gruzinskaya Street. In the New Territory of the zoo, you will see a natural coral reef and giant butterflies, meet monkeys, crocodiles, giraffes, polar bears, tigers, and other animals. A pedestrian bridge will take you into the Old Territory where you will find elephants, leopards, cheetahs and other felines, as well as penguins, wolves, and seals. The Moscow Zoo is a massive area and includes anything you can possibly imagine. The place is divided into 36 sections: Big Pond, Flamingo, Tropical Cats, the Cat String, Cheetahs, Spectacled Bears, The Giraffe House, White-tailed Gnus and Tapirs, Dogs and Relatives, Ungulates, Pinnipeds, Delphinarium, House of Birds, Cranes, Elephant House, Peccaries and Bush Pigs, Musk Oxen and Mountain Goats, Pony Ring, Rock of Birds of Prey, Animals of Russia, Nocturnal World, South America, Australia Fauna, Crossover Bridge, Pond of the New Territory, Coatis and Otters, Polar world, Mountain Ungulates, Pelicans and Cormorants, Fauna of Indonesia, Insecttopia, Deer, Przewalski Horses, Camels, the Animal Island, Exotarium, African Ungulates, Horses, Primates, the Reptile House and Children Zoo.

Moscow Zoo Museum

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The Moscow Zoo is a massive area and includes anything you can possibly imagine. The place is divided into 36 sections: Big Pond, Flamingo, Tropical Cats, the Cat String, Cheetahs, Spectacled Bears, The Giraffe House, White-tailed Gnus and Tapirs, Dogs and Relatives, Ungulates, Pinnipeds, Delphinarium, House of Birds, Cranes, Elephant House, Peccaries and Bush Pigs, Musk Oxen and Mountain Goats, Pony Ring, Rock of Birds of Prey, Animals of Russia, Nocturnal World, South America, Australia Fauna, Crossover Bridge, Pond of the New

Territory, Coatis and Otters, Polar world, Mountain Ungulates, Pelicans and Cormorants, Fauna of Indonesia, Insecttopia, Deer, Przewalski Horses, Camels, the Animal Island, Exotarium, African Ungulates, Horses, Primates, the Reptile House and Children Zoo.

Research & Educational Centre

The Moscow Zoo has its own educational institute and research centre. In addition to full training for zoo staff and teachers, there is a continuing education programme for zoo and aquarium staff, veterinarians, teachers and volunteers, as well as courses in zoo psychology. Since the Moscow Zoo has been chairman of all zoos in Russia since the Soviet period, it is a national training centre. It was founded in 2017 by the current director Svetlana Akulova and Björn Stenvers. The Moscow Zoo has a number of educational programmes for children of different ages: Young biologist Club, Novice travellers, Programmes for schools, Pony Club, Art Zebra, Children's studio "Colour", Museum Lessons, Open lecture hall and others. The programmes are designed both to expand knowledge about animals as well as nature and to improve knowledge of the native language, develop interest in foreign languages, expand knowledge in geography, acquire skills in handling animals, develop creative skills and creative thinking, as well as other useful skills and knowledge that help the children in comprehensive development.

Notable animals

Bear Maryam was brought up at the Moscow Zoo and starred in the film "A Tale of a Real Man". Maryam was distinguished by her friendly character and good-natured disposition, which is rare among bears. Vera Chaplina made Maryam the heroine of her story "Maryam and Jack", included in the collection "Pets of the zoo"

Giraffe Samson Gamletovich Leningradov was born on August 5, 1993 in the Leningrad Zoo.

His parents were a native of Denmark giraffe Hamlet and giraffe Meadows. At the age of two, he moved to Moscow, settled in a separate aviary ("Giraffe House") of the Moscow Zoo, the oldest on the Old territory, built back in 1892. Samson became the only inhabitant of the zoo to receive a full name. He quickly gained popularity among visitors, despite the fact that the zoo has other giraffes living in a common enclosure with zebras. Now Samson is one of the symbols of the zoo.

Location and travel option for visitors

The Moscow Zoo is located in the Presnensky district, about 4 miles (6 kilometers) west of downtown Moscow between the Garden Ring and Third Ring Road. The closest metro stations are Barrikadnaya (line 7) and Krasnopresnenskaya (line 5), each just a 2-minute walk away. It is easy to get to the Moscow Zoo by metro. Few people know that the Moscow Zoo has two entrances: the central one, from Bolshaya Gruzinskaya Street and another one, from the Garden Ring. You can also buy tickets at this entrance where the queues are much smaller; moreover, it is easier to start your walk around the zoo from here.

SPEAKING

Set 2

Preparation (10 minutes)

Presentation and questions (15 minutes)

Task 1

Monologue (3-4 minutes)

Imagine you are a guide telling a tourist about **the London Zoo**. You need to

- comment on the 5 aspects mentioned above;
- remember to make an introduction and conclusion.

Prepare to speak **about the London Zoo** using the Fact File.

You will have to comment on:

- general information and history of the zoo;
- areas and attractions of the zoo;
- educational and research work;
- notable animals;
- the ways of getting to the zoo.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you **are not allowed to read them** when you answer.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, not mentioned in your presentation.

Task 2

Now you are a tourist.

1. Listen to your partner's presentation.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Ask 2 QUESTIONS **about the Moscow Zoo** to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in the presentation.

2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

Fact file

London Zoo

London Zoo or London Zoological Gardens is the world's oldest scientific zoo. It was opened in London, in 1828, and was originally intended to be used as a collection for scientific studying. In 1831 or 1832, the animals of the Tower of London menagerie were transferred to the zoo's collection. It was opened to the public in 1847. Today, it houses a collection of 673 species of animals, with 19,289 individuals, making it one of the largest collections in the United Kingdom.

History

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) was established by Sir Stamford Raffles and Sir Humphry Davy in 1826, who obtained the land for the zoo and had seen the plans before Raffles died. After his death, the third Marquis of Lansdowne took over the project and supervised the building of the first animal houses. The zoo opened on 27 April in 1828 to the fellows of the Society. The Society was granted a Royal Charter in 1829 by King George IV, and in 1847 the zoo opened to the public to aid funding. As well as being the first scientific zoo, ZSL London Zoo also opened the first reptile house (1849), first public aquarium (1853), first insect house (1881) and the first children's zoo (1938). In 1902, Dr Peter Chalmers Mitchell was appointed a secretary of the Society. He set about a major reorganisation of the buildings and enclosures of the zoo, bringing many of the animals out into the open. After the beginning of the Second World War, London Zoo was closed multiple times for over a week. On 27 September 1940, high explosive bombs damaged some of the enclosures in the zoo.

Animals were not harmed during the incidents, although a zebra, a female ass, and her foal escaped from the zoo during the bombings. For safety reasons, all venomous animals were killed. During the war, wounded men were reportedly let into London Zoo for free.

In the 1980s London Zoo housed 8,000 animals of more than 900 species, and in the 1990s the zoo possessed 7,000 animals of 850 species. Although this vast collection was part of the zoo's appeal, it may also have been one of the main causes of its financial problems. The zoo also suffered dwindling visitor numbers. However, when it was announced that London Zoo would close in 1991, a swell of public support in visitors and donations allowed the zoo to continue its work.

Areas and attractions

The 36 acres that London Zoo covers consist of three large areas of gardens all linked together by tunnels and bridges. It has a collection of nearly 750 different species of animals. They are exhibited in numerous different exhibit areas. These include Asian Big Cats, Blackburn (Bird) Pavilion, B.U.G.S, Giants of the Galapagos, Gorilla Kingdom, Komodo Dragons. There are also Australian-themed exhibits, an indoor Rainforest Life exhibition, and a new Penguin Beach which opened in the spring of 2011, and contains England's biggest penguin pool. The zoo is split up into different sections such as the African Bird Safari, Fruit Bat Forest, the Butterfly Paradise, and the Reptile House, so there's no telling what type of animal species you'll come across during your visit to the zoo.

If you're interested in learning more about marine life, the Zoo's aquarium is home to angelfish, stingrays, seahorses and even piranhas, while the Reptile House is home to crocodiles, rattlesnakes, chameleons and even poison dart frogs!

If you want to learn more about exotic-type animal species, there's a Land of the Lions exhibition, as well as other sections like the Tiger Territory, the Gorilla Kingdom and Into Africa, which houses zebras, hippos, and even a high-viewing platform so you can see the giraffes face-to-face.

Children will especially enjoy the Animal Adventure section, which is a petting zoo area that includes sheep, donkeys, rabbits and pigs, just to name a few.

Research & Educational Centre

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is an organisation devoted to research and education, the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats.

ZSL's Institute of Zoology offers research training through PhD studentships, and hosts undergraduate and masters level research projects conducted as part of MSc courses and courses at other institutions.

Secondary school students can join ZSL live online, from classrooms or from home, and it will give the opportunity to meet experts. Via Zoom, students are given the opportunity to meet ZSL earlycareer scientists, exploring careers in animal husbandry and research. The experts share their experiences and insights, and give students the chance to ask their own questions. There are free interactive, online chats that run during Biology Week (October) and British Science Week (March) each year.

ZSL London Zoo has a range of online resources available to download and use before, during and after a visit to the zoo. Some of the resources are for the pupils to use and some are for the accompanying adults.

Notable animals

Throughout its history, the zoo has had many well-known residents. These may have been scientifically important individuals or simply beloved by the public.

Obaysch was the first hippopotamus to be seen in Europe since the Roman Empire, and the first in England since prehistoric times. The hippo arrived at London Zoo in May 1850 as a gift from the Ottoman Viceroy of Egypt in exchange for some greyhounds and deerhounds. Obaysch led to a doubling of the zoo's visitors that year.

Winnipeg the Bear (or Winnie) was an American black bear given to the zoo in 1914 by a Canadian lieutenant, Harry Colebourn. A. A. Milne visited the zoo with his son Christopher Robin, and the boy was so enamoured with the bear that Milne wrote the famous series of books for him entitled Winnie-the-Pooh.

One of the zoo's most famous giant pandas, Chi Chi, arrived in 1958. She immediately became the star attraction at London Zoo. As the only giant panda in the west she was the inspiration of Peter Scott's design for the World Wildlife Fund logo.

Location and travel option for visitors

London Zoo is situated at the northern edge of Regent's Park, on the boundary line between the City of Westminster and the borough of Camden (the Regent's Canal runs through it). That's why the zoo is sometimes called Regent's Zoo.

Individuals wishing to reach London Zoo by public transport can make use of a range of bus services in the local area, with full details of times and stops provided by Transport for London. A number of London Underground Tube stations can be found in the vicinity of Regent's Park and provide a swift and easy way for travellers to get to the zoo (Regent's Park, Warren Street, Baker Street, etc). Finally, travellers looking for a relaxed and unique way to get to the Zoo might like to consider arranging their travel with the London Waterbus Company, which offers drop-off and pick-up from the main entrance.

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9 -11 классы

SPEAKING

Set 3

Preparation (10 minutes)

Presentation and questions (15 minutes)

Task 1

1. Monologue. Time: 3-4 minutes.

Imagine you are a guide telling a tourist about the **San Diego Zoo**. You need to

- comment on the 5 aspects mentioned above;
- remember to make an introduction and conclusion.

Prepare to speak **about the San Diego Zoo** using the Fact File. You will have to comment on:

- general information and history of the zoo;
- areas and attractions of the zoo;
- educational and research work;
- notable animals;
- the ways of getting to the zoo.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you **are not allowed to read them** when you answer.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, not mentioned in your presentation.

Task 2

Now you are a tourist.

1. Listen to your partner's presentation.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Ask 2 QUESTIONS **about the Singapore Zoo** to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in the presentation.

2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

Fact file

San Diego Zoo

The San Diego Zoo is a zoo in Balboa Park, San Diego, California. It is home to more than 4,000 animals representing 800 species, thousands of them are on the endangered species list and many that are rarely seen at other zoos.

The San Diego Zoo is one of the best zoos in the US and possibly the world's best zoo, or at least the most famous. Since opening in 1916 in Balboa Park, San Diego Zoo has grown to become the most visited zoo in the country (with more than 4 million visitors a year) and a main attraction of the city.

The zoo is divided up into eight different exhibits themed around geography and habitat.

The San Diego Zoo was a pioneer in the concept of open-air, cageless exhibits that recreate natural animal habitats.

History

The San Diego Zoo grew out of exotic animal exhibitions abandoned after the 1915 Panama California Exposition. Dr. Harry M. Wegeforth founded the Zoological Society of San Diego, which met in October, 1916, for the first time. He served as president of the society until 1941. A permanent tract of land in Balboa Park was set aside in August 1921. It was agreed that the city would own all the animals and the zoo would manage them. The zoo began to move in the following year. In addition to the animals from the Exposition, the zoo acquired a collection of wild animals from the defunct Wonderland Amusement Park. Ellen Browning Scripps financed a fence around the zoo so that it could begin charging an entrance fee to offset costs.

The San Diego Zoo was a pioneer in building "cageless" exhibits. Wegeforth was determined to create moated exhibits from the start, and the first lion area at the San Diego Zoo without enclosing wires opened in 1922. Local architect Louis John Gill designed the original buildings, cages and animal grottos in 1926.

Until the 1960s, admission for children under 16 was free, regardless of whether they were accompanied by a paying adult.

The zoo's Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species (CRES) was founded in 1975. In 2009, CRES was significantly expanded to become the Institute for Conservation Research.

After the development of the moats in the 1960s, the next era of exhibit design changes began in the 1980s and came into full force in the 1990s. This design concept was intended to replicate nature as much as possible; animals and plants that cohabitated in the wild were situated together in the Zoo.

Areas and attractions

Exhibits at the zoo are often designed around a particular habitat. The same exhibit may feature many different animals that can be found side by side in the wild, along with native plant life. Exhibits range from an African rain forest (featuring gorillas) to the Arctic taiga and tundra in the summertime (featuring polar bears). Many exhibits are "natural", with invisible wires and darkened blinds (to view birds), and accessible pools and open-air moats (for large mammals).

The Zoo is divided into more than 20 sections: Monkey Trail and Forest Tales, The Owens Aviary, The Scripps Aviary, Parker Aviary, Polar Bear Plunge, Wildlife Explorers Basecamp, Lost Forest, Elephant Odyssey, Gorilla Tropics, Absolutely Apes, Tiger Trail, Australian Outback, Africa Rocks, Cape Fynbos, Madagascar Forest, Sun Bear Forest, Ethiopian Highlands and others.

San Diego Zoo offers numerous activities and attractions not to be missed! One of the shortcuts for getting across the park is the Skyfari Aerial Tram, which offers spectacular views of the zoo and surrounding Balboa Park. It's a real treat and a quick ride. Meet Animals Up Close! is a special treat for ages 5 and up. This is a fun and interactive experience, as the animals are brought out to you for an up-close view. Elephant Play Yard is an open-air and hands-on play and exploration area for kids, and kids at heart. Kids can work off some energy with a maze of elephant satellite tracking collars, a play fossil dig, and puzzles to solve. Crazy about Cats is a 90-minute tour, you will be escorted onto Zoo grounds before the Zoo opens, and travel by cart and on foot to see some of the Zoo's most iconic and fascinating wild cat species. You'll learn about cats of all sizes, how they are cared for, and what you can do to help cat species worldwide. You will even get to meet one special cat up close!

Research & Educational Centre

The zoo is renowned for its endangered species breeding programmes and conservation efforts; the department of Conservation and Research for Endangered Species conducts research with such animals as pandas, tree

kangaroos, clouded leopards, gavials, meerkats, and Tasmanian devils. The Frozen Zoo contains frozen specimens of tissue and genetic material that are used for research on and breeding of endangered species. As a result, they have reintroduced more than 30 endangered species back into the wild. They also have over 200 conservation scientists working in 35 countries around the world.

Zoo Corps is a volunteer programme at the San Diego Zoo that enlists high school students to teach guests at the zoo about the animals they are seeing and their place in the ecosystem. It enrolls students between 13 and 17 years of age. The goals are to promote public education about animals and conservation, and to help the students develop their ability to speak in public. The programme runs year round in two sessions, one from May through November and one from January through May.

Notable animals

Karen the Sumatran orangutan perks up around zookeeper Mike Bates. Born with a life-threatening hole in her heart, Karen in 1994 became the first ape to undergo open-heart surgery. With her recovery touch and go, a concerned Bates spent sleepless nights rocking Karen to sleep under an oxygen tent. At the orangutan-viewing window, visitors can go nose to nose with Karen, now fully recovered, rambunctious, and inquisitive. And don't miss little Aisha, the zoo's youngest orangutan, who is often found swinging from ropes and cuddling with her mom, Indah.

Four U.S. zoos shelter giant pandas, but only one is home to mama bear extraordinaire Bai Yun, the most prolific giant panda in captivity outside China. Middle-aged at 24, the mother of six (and one of three giant pandas at the zoo) has earned the right to relax: Bai Yun enjoys climbing elm trees and curling up in her hammock but may surprise visitors with a somersault.

Location and travel option for visitors

The zoo is located within beautiful Balboa Park and extremely easy to access from sunny San Diego. There are 3 ways to get from Downtown San Diego to San Diego Zoo by bus, taxi or on foot. The MTA public transportation service will also bring visitors to Balboa Park from anywhere in the city. In addition, feature hourly express shuttles that run from your hotel's front door to the zoo, so you don't have to waste your day navigating public transportation and parking.

SPEAKING

Set 4

Preparation (10 minutes)

Presentation and questions (15 minutes)

Task 1

Monologue (3-4 minutes)

Imagine you are a guide telling a tourist about the Singapore Zoo. You need to

- comment on the 5 aspects mentioned above;
- remember to make an introduction and conclusion.

Prepare to speak about the Singapore Zoo using the Fact File.

You will have to comment on:

- general information and history of the zoo;
- areas and attractions of the zoo;
- educational and research work;
- notable animals;
- the ways of getting to the zoo.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you **are not allowed to read them** when you answer.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, not mentioned in your presentation.

Task 2

Now you are a tourist.

1. Listen to your partner's presentation.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Ask 2 QUESTIONS **about the San Diego Zoo** to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in the presentation.

2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

Fact file

Singapore Zoo

The Singapore Zoo has always been one of the best zoos in the world. Opened in 1973, the zoo was built at a cost of \$9 million that was granted by the government of Singapore. Bernard Harrison designed the zoo with the guiding principle that the animals within should be living in a habitat mimicking their natural environment as closely as possible.

Singapore Zoo has always exhibited animals in naturalistic, 'open' exhibits with hidden barriers, moats, and glass between the animals and visitors. It houses the largest captive colony of orangutans in the world. The Singapore Zoo has been highly ranked by various international metrics.

There are over 2,800 animals in the Singapore Zoo, representing over 300 species of mammals, birds and reptiles, of which some 16 per cent are considered to be threatened species. They are kept on a 28-hectare plot of land.

History

The conception of the Singapore Zoo dates from 1969. At the time, the Public Utilities Board (PUB) decided to use some of its land holdings around reservoirs for parks and open recreational facilities.

In 1971, the construction of the basic 50 enclosures was started. Animals were collected from dealers and donated by sponsors. The director of the National Zoological Gardens of Sri Lanka, Lyn de Alwis, was hired as a special consultant to work out the problems inherent in tropical zoos.

On 27 June 1973, the Singapore Zoo opened its gates for the first time with a collection of 270 animals from over 72 species, and a staff of 130. By 1990, 1,600 animals from more than 160 species lived in social groups, housed in 65 landscaped exhibits with boundaries conceived to look as natural as possible.

In 1987, the zoo began to display rare animals loaned by other zoos. The first animals displayed in this manner were the rare golden snub-nosed monkeys from China in 1987, which attracted more than half a million visitors. This was followed by white tigers from Cincinnati Zoo in 1988 and giant pandas from Wolong National Nature Reserve in 1990. As a result of the restructuring, more facilities were launched, such as a \$3.6 million Wildlife Healthcare & Research Centre in 2005. Existing infrastructure was revamped to further enhance the experience of visitors. The growth in revenue continued on an upward trend

Areas and attractions

Key animals found in the zoo include Asian elephants, white tigers, free-ranging orangutans, chimpanzees, proboscis monkeys, pygmy hippos, otters, Malayan tapirs, sun bears, crocodiles and naked mole rats. The main attractions of the zoo are its 11 theme-based zones. Each zone features the unique interactions and relationships among the different plant and animal species with their environment. The 11 zones are: Frozen Tundra, Wild Africa, Fragile Forest, Australian Outback, Great Rift Valley of Ethiopia, Treetops Trail, Gibbon Island, Primate Kingdom, Reptile Garden, Critters Longhouse, as well as the Tropical Crops & Orchid Garden.

The best thing about Singapore Zoo is that visitors can interact with the animals in a very guarded environment. This is a place where you walk in as a tourist and leave as a completely enriched and enlightened human being who is able to appreciate and relish biodiversity like never before. Jungle Breakfast is the most exciting and pleasant way of interacting with the animals. The orangutans and giraffes can be seen from close quarters. Located at the very north of the zoo, Rainforest Kidzworld is home to many domestic animals like goats and rabbits and there are other attractions in it like a carousel and a splash pad. Guests are allowed to closely interact with the animals and feed them.

Rainforest Fights Back Show is a show put up by actors and animals together. It features a performance that shows how the people and the animals come together to protect the rainforest from a poacher who tries to mow down a section of the forest.

Research & Educational Centre

The Wildlife Healthcare & Research Centre was opened in March 2006 as part of the zoo's efforts in wildlife conservation. The Singapore Zoo has achieved numerous breakthroughs in its captive breeding programmes in the last 45 years. The birth of its first baby orangutan took place on 20 January 1975, a rare event for orangutans in captivity at the time. On 15 November 2009, the first Komodo dragon was successfully hatched in the zoo after many unsuccessful attempts to breed the endangered reptile. In addition, the zoo has been successful in breeding a number of critically endangered species, including the river terrapin, Sumatran orangutan and cotton-top tamarin.

In 2012, the zoo bred more than 140 animals, many of which are endangered or threatened species. Currently, 26 percent of the zoo's animal species are threatened. Over the years, the zoo has established itself as a leading zoological facility for the captive management and breeding of endangered Asian primates.

As part of its current efforts to transform itself into an edutainment zoo, a wide range of educational programmes for young children, students as well as families were introduced. These programmes include day and night camps, workshops and behind-the-scenes tours. The Kidzranger Tour, for example, is a hands-on educational programme that gives children the opportunity to become zookeepers and gain access to restricted areas in the Rainforest Kidzworld.

Notable animals

The most famous resident in the history of the Singapore Zoo is Ah Meng, the female Sumatran orangutan. Star of the zoo's Breakfast with an Orangutan programme, Ah Meng became famous worldwide and was featured in numerous travel programmes, documentaries and print articles. In her lifetime, she had met celebrities – Elizabeth Taylor and Michael Jackson – and even royalty – Britain's Prince Philip. Ah Meng died on 8 February 2008 at the age of 48.

Omar the white Bengal tiger was another famous resident at the Singapore Zoo. A subspecies of Bengal tiger, white tigers are extremely rare, with only one in 10,000 born without the orange pigments in their skins.

Other animal celebrities at Singapore Zoo include Astove the tortoise. The 300kg Aldabra giant tortoise, which came from Seychelles in 1989, is currently the oldest animal at the zoo at age 80.

Previously, there was also Tommy, a giant Galapagos tortoise given as a gift by the Honolulu Zoo.

Location and travel option for visitors

The Singapore Zoo is located on the margins of Upper Seletar Reservoir within Singapore's heavily forested central catchment area. The easiest way to get to the zoo is by taxi. You can also get to Singapore Zoo by Bus or Metro. Singapore Zoo is currently served by the nearby Springleaf MRT (metro rail transit) station on the Thomson–East Coast line. Other ways of getting to the zoo from an MRT station is via bus services from either Choa Chu Kang MRT station, Khatib MRT station, or Ang Mo Kio MRT station. There are three bus services which call at the bus stop near to the Zoo.