



Careers from A to Z:
Zach the Zoologist

WHO IS ZACH?



Hi, I'm Zach! I'm a **zoologist**! I work with zookeepers, veterinarians, and other wildlife specialists to study and teach people about animals. I work with animals that are in **captivity**, like at a zoo, and in the wild. My favorite place to work with animals is in the wild because every day is a new adventure. When I work with animals, I make **observations** and watch their behaviors. I collect notes and

data on what I see. I want to get data on what the animals eat, where they sleep, and how they talk to each other. Then, I work with other zoologists and researchers to protect animals and their habitats. How would you like to hang out in a marsh and watch a pelican nest? That is what I did the other day to learn more about how coyotes prey on pelicans. I used my Global Positioning Satellite software (GPS) to help me locate the birds. Then, I used a video camera and notebook to record my observations about their nests and those preying coyotes! By collecting this data, I was able to help pelicans survive.

WHAT IS DATA?

Data is very important to a zoologist. Data is a fancy word that means facts, measurements, and words that describe things. A zoologist uses many tools for collecting data, like microscopes, binoculars, pencils and paper, cameras, night vision goggles, maps, a GPS, and more! Usually, zoologists take their data and either write about it or use it to create charts, graphs, and maps related to animals and animal habitats.





IT'S YOUR TURN

Pretend you are a zoologist. While on a recent adventure, you discovered a new animal species! Pretend you collected data about this new animal species and give a report of your findings.

Step 1: Record your data

 Animal's Name:

 Food Source:

 Habitat:

 What preys on this animal?

 Description:

 "Wow" fact about the animal:

Step 2: Draw your animal in its habitat!