

Going to the zoo

Key terms

Zoo – A place where animals are kept.

Enclosure – an area that has a barrier to stop animals getting out.

Entertain – to give someone enjoyment.

Ethical – something that is right.

Moral – thinking about what is right and wrong.

Captive – imprisoned.

Preservation – keeping something safe.

Treatment – the way that you treat someone or something.

Survive – to continue to stay alive.

Species – a type of animal.

Modern – relating to now or recent times.

Extinction – when there is no more of a particular species.

Roam – travel around.

Exotic – something from a faraway country.

Some photos from zoos past and present. What do you notice about how zoos have changed over time?



Some facts and information:

- Each year, 25 million people in the UK visit a zoo.
- The first zoo in the UK was at the Tower of London around 1000 years ago.
- Animals were not treated well in the first zoos. They were put into small cages with little space.
- The purpose of zoos in the past was to entertain visitors.
- Nowadays, zoos in the UK focus on the conservation of animals – they protect animals which might not survive in the wild.
- Many people still think that it is wrong to keep animals captive in zoos. They think that animals should be kept in the wild where they have much more space.

Key Dates

1210 – Exotic animals including lions and camels were moved to the Tower of London so the King and the people at his court could see them.

1828 – London zoo opened to the public.

1966 – The first drive-through safari park opened in Britain. The wild animals there could roam freely.

1980s – The public started to question whether it is right to keep animals captive in zoos.

1990s – Zoos started to work to save animals that are threatened with extinction.

Key Questions

Lesson 1: What are zoos like? What can be kept there? What do they need?

Lesson 2: What are zoos like for the animals, and how has this changed?

Lesson 3: Should zoos be kept open? Are they fair? Use evidence to explain