

An Excursion to the Zoo

As part of this course, you will do a self-guided trip to the San Francisco Zoo to visit the primates in residence there. From your experience, you will write a research paper describing what you saw as well as what you learned from scholarly literature on primates and primate conservation.

Before you go, see the documentary “Living Primates” (in Dropbox or on Canvas), read “Chapter 6” in your reader, and then read up on the primates at the zoo on the San Francisco Zoo’s website (www.sfzoo.org > Explore > Animals > Mammals). On the right, you will see a list of mammals that includes primates such as Chimpanzee, Gorilla (Western Lowland), Lemurs (Black, Black & White Ruffed, Red Ruffed, Ring Tailed), Monkeys (Black Howler, Emperor Tamarin, Francois Langur, Patas, Pied Tamarin), Siamang, etc.

Part 1: Once you are at the Zoo, go see all of the primates! (There are about 14 or 15 different species.) I encourage you to take pictures. Using information from Chapter 6 in BioAnth and the documentary Living Primates, as well as your own observations, note the following:

- What is this primate? Give some background. What is its common name and what is its scientific name? Where is it found in the wild?*
- What major group does this primate belong in? (Prosimians, New World Monkeys, Old World Monkeys, or Apes)*
- What characteristics of this species tell you it’s a primate?*
- What is unique to each of the primates (species) at the zoo?*
- What are your impressions? What did you observe? If the primate isn’t active, you may use other sources of information to discuss behavior that is typical for this species (don’t abuse this allowance, however! Since I’ve been to the zoo many times, I know that not all of the primates are going to be sleeping at the same time!) This should be a separate paragraph.

* You will need information from the reading and viewing guides, the zoo website, the zoo plaques, etc. to guide you on these questions. **A successful paper weaves or integrates both researched material plus personal observations.** You can use other quality/authoritative sources as you see appropriate. The Primate Fact Sheets from Primate Info Net are an excellent source of information. These can be found at <http://pin.primate.wisc.edu/factsheets/>

- ◆ From your notes you will write a paper that includes a description of **7 (seven)** primate species at the SF Zoo, with at least one species from each of the major primate groups (prosimians, New World Monkeys, Old World Monkeys, and Apes). You must include the information in the bullet points above. You can be creative in how you format and present this, but your paper must be narrative – do not merely recite a list of characteristics. When you word process your paper, use headers to separate the different species. You should plan on writing about 250 words per primate (put the word count at the end of each section). You also want to include an introduction of about 150 words (it can be in the first person, describing why you went, your overall experience, etc.).

Part 2: After you have completed your visit, choose your “favorite” primate from the zoo and using scholarly resources, find one scientific article from the primary literature that describes a study done (by the authors writing the paper) on some aspect of the conservation of your chosen primate species. This should be about 500 words (plus or minus 25 words). Some journals you might consider include: *American Journal of Primatology* and the *International Journal of Primatology* (there are others, of course). This summary should include:

- A description of the research, including: the name of the species studied, where the study took place, what question the researchers were asking (very important), what was done, and what the researchers discovered.
- Be sure to give the full citation of the paper you are summarizing.
- Put the word count for Part 2 at the end of Part 2.

General Information

IMPORTANT: YOU ARE LIMITED TO USING ONE QUOTE. OTHERWISE, YOU MUST PARAPHRASE YOUR INFORMATION PROPERLY (AND STILL PROVIDE THE SOURCE).

- ◆ Remember to italicize the scientific species name of the primates! The species name always has two parts – the genus and the specific name. The genus name is always capitalized and the specific is always lower case: *Lemur catta*, *Gorilla gorilla*, *Mandrillus sphinx*, and so on. This is not trivial! To refer to something as a lemur is not at all the same as referring to something as *Lemur catta*, since there are dozens of lemur species, only one of which is the ring tailed lemur or *Lemur catta*. This information appears on the plaque at the zoo, and also on the zoo website.
- ◆ Pictures are recommended, but optional. If you took pictures at the zoo, great! If you want to use images you downloaded from the internet, you must provide information on the source. Just give the url as a figure caption underneath the image itself (you can use a small font – say, point size 9). You do not need to put this information in your bibliography or works cited section.
- ◆ It is VERY important that you cite the source of your information – you will lose points if you fail to do this! You can use a format of your choosing (MLA, APA, or something else), so long as you are consistent. Here's some info on how to cite a few sources you may be using:

The Bio Anth chapters; here's the citation:

Stanford, Craig, Allen John S., Anton, Susan C. Biological Anthropology: The History of Humankind. New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006.

The San Francisco Zoo website:

San Francisco Zoo (date of retrieval from website). Ring-tailed Lemur. Retrieved from <http://www.sfzoo.org/openrosters/ViewOrgPageLink.asp?LinkKey=13504&orgkey=1821>

Zoo plaques:

San Francisco Zoo. *Lemur catta* enclosure plaque, San Francisco, Date viewed.

If you like, you can use an “endnote” style for sourcing your information. First, put all of your sources in bibliographic format at the end of your paper AND NUMBER THEM. For example,

1. San Francisco Zoo (put date of retrieval from website here). Ring-tailed Lemur. Retrieved from <http://www.sfzoo.org/openrosters/ViewOrgPageLink.asp?LinkKey=13504&orgkey=1821>
2. San Francisco Zoo. *Lemur catta* enclosure plaque, San Francisco, put date viewed.
3. Stanford, Craig, Allen John S., Anton, Susan C. Biological Anthropology: The History of Humankind. New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006.

Then, in your paper, whenever you use information from, say, the zoo website, you would do something like “*Lemur catta* is semi-diurnal” (1). (The number (1) refers to the entry in your bibliography for the Zoo website).

- ◆ Be sure to include a Works Cited section (again, using the format of your choosing).
- ◆ Finally, do not plagiarize!!! Even if you cite a source (such as the SF Zoo website), you must still put the information in your own words. You will be submitting your assignment to sjsu.desire2learn.com and it will be run through a plagiarism detection service (turnitin.com). **DO NOT USE MATERIAL FROM A PAPER FROM A PREVIOUS CLASS – YOU WILL RECEIVE A FAILING GRADE AND THE OTHER STUDENT WILL RECEIVE A RETROACTIVE FAILING GRADE.**

I encourage you to go with other members of the class. Every student must take his or her own notes. You cannot “share” notes to write up the assignment. I can, at my discretion, ask a student to submit the notes he or she took at the Zoo during the visit.

You must attach your Zoo ticket stub to your paper for credit on this assignment. This assignment is in hard copy due in class at the beginning of Exam 2. Remember to submit to CANVAS as well.

Some Additional Information

The San Francisco Zoo is open 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily (last admission at 4:00 p.m). Admission is \$20. There is a discount if you are a resident of San Francisco (with proof of residency) or if you are a member of the Zoo. Parking is \$8 on weekdays and \$10 on weekends (there is free parking along Sloat Boulevard if you are lucky enough!)

Driving From the South Bay

- Take 280 North to the Westlake District exit in Daly City. Continue going north (Junipero Serra Boulevard) to John Daly Boulevard.
- Turn left at John Daly Boulevard and continue to Skyline Boulevard (Highway 35).
- Turn right onto Skyline Boulevard (Highway 35).
- At the Skyline/Great Highway junction, turn left onto the Great Highway.
- Get into the right lane and take the right turn into the Zoo Entrance on Sloat Blvd. at 47th Avenue.



If you are coming from somewhere other than the south bay, go to the Zoo's website at www.sfzoo.org. Click on "Visit" and then "Directions and Parking" for more information.

Have fun – monkey around 😊