

# For Creative Minds

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## Thinking it Through

blizzard or  
ice storm

earthquake

flood

hurricane

tornado

tsunami

volcanic eruption

wildfire

Which of these natural disasters or severe weather events might affect where you live?

Which of these events might happen with little or no warning?

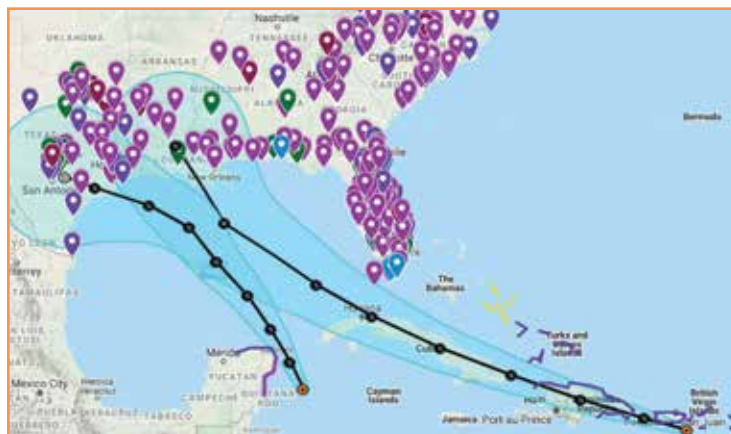
For which of these events would you have warning and time to prepare?

How will you know if one of the disasters/severe weather events is coming your way?

How would you prepare for a natural disaster or severe weather event?

What would you pack or gather to keep a pet safe and secure?

Have you ever experienced a natural disaster? If so, describe what happened. Were you prepared or surprised?



What are some ways these natural disasters might affect animals in zoos?

Why do you think zoos have people stay there for an event they know is coming?

Would you want to stay at a zoo during one of these events? Why or why not?

Do you think weather affects zoo animals? If so, explain what and why.

Would heat or freezing temperatures affect all animals the same way? Why or why not?

## Animal Matching

Most facilities have block enclosures, hardened structures, or an off-exhibit place for animals to shelter in place in the event of a natural disaster. Animals may be placed in crates or cages and carried into these safe places for the duration of the storm. Match the picture to the off-exhibit animals that are sheltering in place.



alligator



cheetah



flamingos



jaguar



macaws



turkey vulture



tortoise



turtles

- A. Heat lamps help keep these birds warm.
- B. This big cat beds down in pine shavings.
- C. This large reptile is being kept in an indoor area normally used for visitors.
- D. This large bird is crated with straw to keep it comfortable.
- E. These reptiles are being temporarily housed in the basement for safety.
- F. This big cat enjoys some special meat.
- G. These tropical birds flock in an indoor area normally used for visitors.
- H. This reptile snoozes in a big bucket.

Answers: 1-C, 2-B, 3-G, 4-F, 5-A, 6-D, 7-H, 8-E

## Enrichment Matching

1



In the wild, animals never have time to be bored. Zookeepers offer the animals in their care enrichment activities that give them the opportunity to use their natural behaviors.

Enrichment, such as “hunting” for food in their habitats, and playing games, is especially important when animals’ routines change for any reason, including weather or natural disaster events.

Which photos best match the enrichment activities below?

2



**Hunting for food.** Finding and getting food in the wild takes work. While zoo animals are fed regularly, it’s important to sometimes make them work to find food. Zookeepers often hide food around the habitat, or in interesting seasonal items. Sometimes they freeze food, especially in hot weather.

3



**Enjoying new scents.** Many animals are stimulated by different scents, including herbs, spices, perfume, and nontoxic plants (which can also provide an interesting texture to rub against). Zookeepers often offer scented objects or add scent to items the animals can chew on or destroy to encourage them to move and explore.

**Playing with toys.** Playing with toys gives animals the chance to explore and learn. Some “toys” may be platforms or places to hide. Sometimes the toys are pretend prey the animals might hunt in the wild.

**Rest and snuggle time.** Some animals enjoy a good blanket or stuffie to snuggle when they nap.

4



Next time you visit a zoo or aquarium, look for enrichment activities the animals are doing!

Answers: 1. Hunting for food (arctic foxes & pumpkin); 2. Rest and snuggle time (kinkajou in a blanket); 3. Playing with toys (tiger with pretend zebra), 4: Enjoying new scents (serval enjoying Christmas tree scents).



## Zoo Jobs Matching

Many people think of zookeepers and veterinarians when they think of jobs at the zoo; but there are also important jobs outside of animal care. Match the photo to the job description.



administrator



curator



educator



electrician



gardener



veterinarian



volunteer



zookeeper

- A. I am an animal doctor. I give the animals physical examinations and vaccinations when needed.
- B. I maintain, repair, and figure out any problems with electrical systems, including phones, data, lighting, service panels, and generators.
- C. I manage and am responsible for all animals or specific animal groups at the zoo.
- D. I help zoo educators or zookeepers but don't get paid.
- E. I teach children and adults about the animals, habitats, feeding, and conservation issues. During camps and special programs, I lead activities, games, and crafts.
- F. I am responsible for feeding, caring for, and maintaining the health of specific animals.
- G. I take care of the landscaping and soil, including designing areas and caring for plants, flowers, and trees.
- H. I am responsible for essential behind-the-scenes work for the whole zoo such as tracking budgets, issuing reports, and ensuring rules are in place to keep everyone safe.

Answers: 1-H; 2-C, 3-E; 4-B; 5-G; 6-A; 7-D or F; 8-D or F