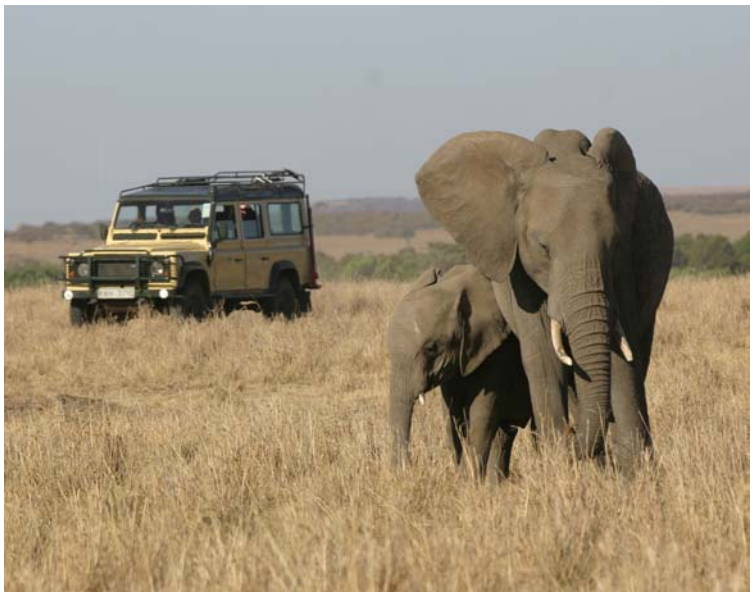
Lesson 1
Introduction to the Animals of Day Six

Have you ever gone on a **safari** (suh far' ee)? A safari is a journey across a stretch of land, usually made to observe or hunt wild animals. Your safari begins today. This will be an unusual safari, because you will travel all over the world – from the jungles of Asia to the rainforests of South America. Your journey will even take you to your own backyard as you study the animals God created to crawl, walk, leap, gallop, run, jump, creep, and slither across the land.


The people in this jeep are on a safari.

You're going to have a great time learning all about animals across the world, identifying their tracks, and investigating what makes them a part of God's animal kingdom. You'll discover many animals that have such incredible features that they cry out in praise of their Maker. You'll keep records of all you learn, and do experiments and projects along the way. This will be a safari you'll never forget!

God Made the Animals

Are you familiar with the days of creation? Do you know what God made on each day? Do you remember what He made on day five of creation? If you studied Zoology 1 and 2 in this series, you explored all the animals God created on the fifth day. In this book, you are going to discover the animals God made on the sixth day. Let's find out exactly what the Bible says God created on the sixth day. Genesis 1:24–25 says:

> *And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so.* ***God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds.*** *And God saw that it was good.* [NIV, emphasis added]

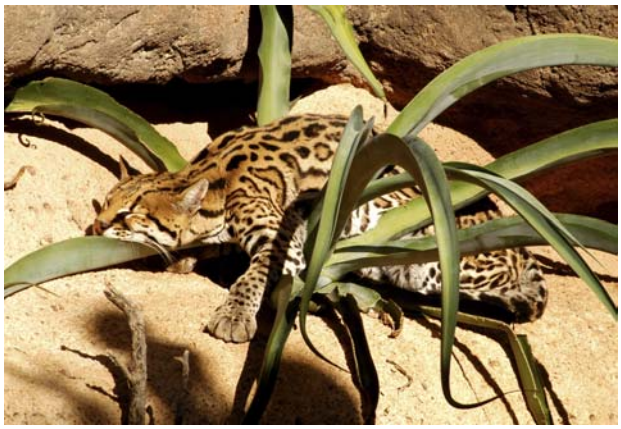
Let's read the sentence in bold again. It separates the creatures God created into three groups: **wild animals**, **livestock**, and the **creatures that move along the ground**. Since that's how the Bible describes the animals God made on the sixth day, that's the order in which we will study them.

Did you notice that God separates the wild animals from the livestock? Do you know what livestock are? Livestock are animals that we own, care for, and use for food or to help us with our chores. Can you think of examples of livestock? I can think of many: horses, donkeys, oxen, sheep, cattle, and pigs. Isn't it interesting to think that God actually created animals to help us? Horses and donkeys help us by carrying us or our things from place to place. They can also help us by pulling plows as we plant crops. Oxen are used for that as well, and sheep give us wool for clothing. Cattle are eaten and milked. Pigs are also eaten. In some countries, camels help people with their work and carry them from place to place, so we'll study camels when we study livestock. Can you think of one thing these animals have in common? They all have hooves. Animals with hooves are called **ungulates** (un' gyoo litz). In the livestock section, we'll study every ungulate, even though some of them (like zebras and gazelles) are not really livestock.


The adult oxen in this picture are helping this man plow his field. Oxen are livestock.

Of course, we'll also study animals that aren't livestock. The Bible calls them "wild animals" and "creatures that move along the ground." When someone says "wild animals," what do you think of? I immediately imagine lions and tigers and bears (oh my!). These animals, of course, are not usually kept for us to eat or to help us work. Most of them don't make good pets, either.

When my brother was in college, he was given an **ocelot** (os' uh lot) as a pet. How cute that ocelot kitten was! It played and scampered about, climbing up the furniture and attacking toy mice, just like any young housecat. As it grew, however, its playful bite became more powerful, and its claws grew longer and sharper. One night, as my brother was sleeping, the ocelot saw his feet hanging off the edge of the bed, twitching. After a few minutes of crouching on the floor, the ocelot leapt up and grabbed my brother's feet with both claws, hanging on for dear life. My brother was hurt so badly he had to go to the hospital! Although it made him sad, he had to find a new home for his ocelot. Most wild animals are not meant to be pets. However, some have been bred to become pets over the years. Can you think of any? Dogs and cats come to mind. Since dogs and cats are pets that came from wild animals, we'll include them in our wild animal section.


Some animals were meant for the wild, like this beautiful ocelot.

Do you know what I mean when I say that an animal "comes from" another animal? Well, if you look back at the Bible verse we read a little while ago, you will see that God said that all the animals reproduce *after their own kind*. That word "**kind**" is very important. You see, there are many different *species* of animals, but not nearly as many *kinds* of animals. For example, there are calico cats and Siamese cats that live in people's homes, and there are also lions and tigers that roam the wilds of Africa. Even though they are very different from one another, creation scientists can show that most likely they all came from a pair of cats that walked off the ark after the worldwide flood.

In other words, God created each kind of animal, and He created them with the ability to adapt and change over time. So after the two cats walked off the ark and began to reproduce, their young were similar to, but not exactly the same, as they were. As time went on, the differences between the young and their parents continued to "pile up," until there were many different species of cats – from the cute little Siamese to the dangerous lion.

Some people argue that the story of the worldwide flood can't be true because all the different animals of the world could not fit on the ark. However, Noah took only two of each *kind* of animal onto the ark. He didn't have to take two of each of the different species of cat, for example. He just had to take two from the cat *kind*, and they would eventually be the great, great, great, great, great grandparents of all the different species of cats we see today. So Noah just had to take two of each *kind* of creature, and there was plenty of room on the ark for them. You'll learn more about this as you work through this course.

This green anole (uh noh' lee – a type of lizard) is probably an example of what the Bible calls a creature that moves along the ground.

When the Bible mentions creatures that creep, it is most likely talking about reptiles (such as snakes and lizards), amphibians (such as frogs and salamanders), arthropods (such as spiders and scorpions), and all the worm-like creatures that move along and under the ground.

As I mentioned, you'll study the wild animals first, livestock second and then all the creeping creatures third. Since dinosaurs were probably reptiles, we'll place them into the creeping section, though most of them did not creep. Many tromped slowly along or scurried about on two legs.

Since you have most likely studied Zoology 1 and Zoology 2, you already know a lot about animals. You know about animal classification, nocturnal and diurnal animals, herbivores, carnivores, habitats, endangered species, arthropods, annelids, parasites, and many other things. So I won't repeat the information you already know, except to occasionally remind you of things you may have forgotten. At the end of this lesson, you'll do a fun activity that will teach you a little bit more about

camouflage, which is something else you learned about in the first two zoology books. This experiment will encourage you to think about how camouflage helps some animals survive, sometimes at the expense of others that do not. This is called **natural selection**, which is something we have not talked about in the other books. However, it will come up quite a bit in this book, so it will be important for you to do an experiment that helps you understand the concept.

Predators and Prey

In this book, we'll study a lot of **predators** (pred' uh turz) and their **prey** (pray). This means we'll have to learn about animals (the predators) chasing, capturing, and eating other creatures (the prey). This might bother you. It might make you sad to learn about an animal and then learn that it gets eaten by other animals. Do you know why this bothers you? It's because you were created in the image of God and have emotions that are similar to God's emotions. The Bible says God notices when a single sparrow falls to the ground. He cares about the animals, just like you do. It is a sad thing to God that animals are now predators and prey. But did you know that this was not the way it was originally meant to be?

This tiger has a rabbit in its mouth. It hunted the rabbit, caught it, and will soon eat it. The tiger is the predator, and the rabbit is its prey.

Creation Confirmation

After God finished His work of creation, He said something very important about what all the animals should eat. Let's read what God said in Genesis 1:29-31:

> *Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.* [NIV]

All the animals were given plants to eat. That means all animals were all originally herbivores (creatures that eat only plants). To God, this wasn't just good; it was ***very*** good.

Many Christians believe that there was no animal death on the earth right after creation. That's because in the beginning, animals weren't supposed to die. Death and decay came as a result of Adam and Eve's sin in the Garden of Eden. Because of their sin, all of creation, including animals, was subject to death and decay. Apparently, some animals (especially the ones that had the right kind of teeth) began to develop a taste for other animals. As a result, some animals stopped eating the plants God had made for their food, and they began eating other animals.

Romans 8:20-22 tells us that all of creation waits for the day when the world will be restored to its original state:

> *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.*

The Bible promises that one day Jesus will return and remove death from the earth, rescuing creation from its groans and suffering. In 1 Corinthians 15:24-26 we read:

then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

Perhaps when Jesus destroys death, the world will look something like what is described in Isaiah 11:6-9:

Perhaps it's easier to picture the perfect world that God created when we see situations like this. The snake in this picture typically eats rodents (like hamsters). However, he refused to eat the hamster in the picture, even though it was put in the snake's cage as food. Instead, these two animals have become close friends, to the amazement of zoo visitors in Tokyo, Japan.

And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain.

Can you imagine lions that will only eat plants, and poisonous snakes that will be harmless? Wolves playing with lambs, and leopards with goats is hard to picture, but that's what it was like when God originally created the animals. The Bible also promises that someday it will be like that again!

You might be wondering, "But what about the fact that carnivores only eat meat and can't survive on plants? Aren't their sharp teeth meant for tearing flesh?" This is something you might have been taught, but isn't necessarily true. You see, many animals with extremely sharp teeth, like fruit bats, certain monkeys, and some bears, eat only fruit and other plant parts. Their teeth are perfect for tearing into the flesh of the thick skin of fruits, or ripping tough leaves off a branch. The panda bear's sharp teeth, for example, are perfect for peeling the flesh off the bamboo shoots it eats. Furthermore, there have been reports of carnivorous animals, such as dogs and lions, that will eat only plants. In fact, Georges and Margaret Westbeau had a lion they named "Little Tyke." This interesting animal refused to eat any kind of meat. The Westbeaus were worried by the false notion that lions have to eat meat to survive, so they tried everything they could to coax the lion to eat meat. Nevertheless, it survived its entire life on grain, rice, milk, and eggs.

A panda bear eats only plants. It has very sharp teeth, however, because they are ideal for eating its favorite food: bamboo.

Though it's hard to imagine a world without death and decay, we are promised that this is the way it will be one day. So as you are reading this book and learning about predators and their prey, just remember: It won't always be like that.

Studying Animals

Have you ever studied an animal? I don't mean just watching or playing with an animal. I mean, have you observed an animal, taken note of its behavior, and thought about the reasons it does what it does? Have you ever read a book about an animal's anatomy or behavior and tried to remember what you learned? If so, you are probably someone who would enjoy a career in zoology.

Zoologists (zoh awl' uh jists) study animal behavior, habitats, anatomy, and everything else they can about animals. Most of what we know about animals is the result of scientists studying them. Zoologists learn more about animal behavior when they are able to study them in the wild. An animal studied in a zoo doesn't really behave the way it would act in the wild. A zoo is a false habitat, and the animal adjusts its behavior to the zoo environment. Although scientists can learn a lot about animals in a zoo, they won't understand much about their normal behavior unless they study creatures in their natural habitat and environment.

Studying animals in their natural habitat is tricky. When an animal encounters a human, it will usually behave differently than normal. It might be nervous and on guard. If a scientist wants to learn how animals act on a daily basis, how animals form relationships with one another, and about animals' normal habits, he must either be hidden from the animals or get the animals used to his presence. Because many animals have keen senses, it is often hard to hide from them. As a result, zoologists often try to get animals used to people, a process called **habituation** (huh bich' oo aye' shun).

Habituation

Meerkats, like the one shown here, are typically easily frightened by humans. However, scientists from Cornell University habituated them to the presence of humans so they could be studied.

To habituate animals, scientists will slowly get closer and closer to the animals, then remain there – causing no harm or disruption, day after day – until the animals get used to their presence. In the beginning, the animals hide and are cautious. After a time, however, the animals no longer see the scientists as a threat, and they begin to go about their usual business. The scientists can then begin studying them. One famous scientist, Dr. Jane Goodall, habituated chimpanzees to her presence and studied them for many years in a wildlife park in Africa. This was also done by scientists at Cornell University with a group of meerkats in an African desert. The study lasted for ten years, and much was learned about meerkats during this time. Habituating animals is a common way students and scientists study them in the wild.

In most such circumstances, animals become habituated to the sight, smells, and sounds of the particular scientists that have been there day after day, week after week, month after month, and even year after year. The animals are habituated to these individual scientists only. It's important to note that the animals are not *tamed* by these scientists, though the creatures might trot right up to the scientists and investigate them, even crawling on their laps, considering them friends. However, they are still wild animals that will fiercely bite and hurt anyone they don't trust. These animals have learned to trust only a few particular scientists. If a new scientist approaches, the animals go back to their fearful, cautious behavior.

Habituating animals to humans can be risky for both the animals and the people. If an animal becomes habituated to many people, it can come to think that all humans are somewhat safe. This is dangerous for an animal, because it could walk right up to a hunter that would shoot it. On the other hand, if the animal seems tame to a person, the person might start trying to treat it like a pet. Since a wild animal is not used to such treatment, it might think the person is trying to hurt it, and it could

harm the person, thinking it must defend itself. So once again, a habituated animal is *not tame*. The animal is only unafraid of some humans. General habituation often happens with bears in national parks. Some bears become used to humans feeding them, even though people are told not to. As a result, bears sometimes approach people looking for food. Even though they may look friendly, the bears are still *very, very dangerous* wild animals. People sometimes make the mistake of thinking such bears are tame and start feeding them. When a person runs out of food, however, the bear may become violent. One swipe from a bear claw can result in death. We'll learn more about that later.

Many of the animals you will learn about in this book, such as monkeys, have been studied for hundreds of years, whether through habituation or through observing them from afar. Others, such as certain species of salamanders, have only been studied by a very few scientists because they are difficult to find. There are some animals we know almost nothing about, typically because they are difficult to track and because they live in a habitat not frequented by people. If you completed the Zoology 2 course, you might remember that blue whales and male sea turtles fall into this category.

Even though there are many things we do not know about animals, you will learn a great deal about what we do know as this book takes you on a tour through the world, looking at the different orders and families of animals. However, there isn't room to tell you about every animal species in creation. If you want to learn more about a particular species of animal, check out books from the library or do some research on the Internet. The course website I told you about in the introduction to the book is a great place to start. If there is a lot known about this animal, you will find a lot of information. If little is known or understood about a particular animal, there probably has not been a scientist dedicated to studying it. Perhaps you will be the one who does that when you grow up!

Animal Careers

If you have a special love for animals, you may want to consider a career that will give you the opportunity to work with them. There are many ways for people to work with animals as a career. All of them can be rewarding, if you love animals. Some require degrees or certification; others don't require any special education, but they do require training. Let's take a look at a few of the jobs you could get working with animals.

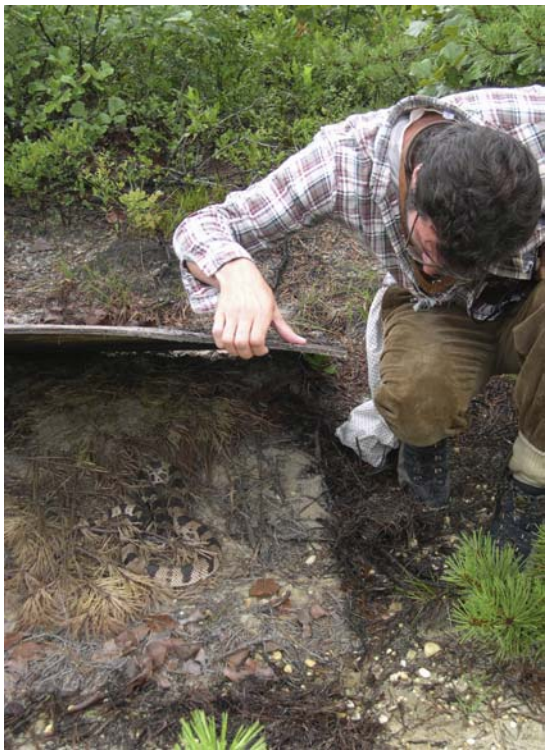
This veterinarian is examining someone's pet dog.

The most obvious career for a person who loves animals is to become a **veterinarian** (vet' ur uh nair' ee uhn), a doctor who works with injured and ill animals. Most veterinarians either specialize in small animals, like dogs and cats, or large animals, like horses and cows. A very few will specialize in exotic animals like marine animals, zoo animals, or chickens. I know chickens don't seem all that

exotic, but once a veterinarian knows about chickens, she can treat parrots and injured birds in the wild. A veterinarian who specializes in exotic animals can also work in zoos or animal parks, with wildlife organizations, or with animal research organizations. An exotic veterinarian can even work in chicken plants, treating the chickens that will one day be served on someone's dinner table! One interesting veterinary career involves working with politicians and health organizations, educating people and creating programs dealing with **zoonotic** (zoh uh not' ik) **diseases**. Zoonotic diseases are illnesses transmitted between animals and people, like avian flu, mad cow disease, west Nile fever, and Lyme disease.

While there are more than 150 medical schools in the United States, there are less than 30 veterinary schools. This means a person has a better chance of becoming a doctor than a veterinarian. However, you have a greater likelihood of getting into veterinary school if you have experience working with different types of animals. There are many places to get this experience. You could volunteer as a vet's assistant or in a laboratory that studies animals. You could also volunteer for a few years on a farm, zoo, or nature preserve. The more experience you have with different kinds of animals, the better your chance of being accepted to veterinary school.

Zoologist



This zoologist is studying a pine snake he found hiding under a board.

Zoologists are people who usually have a degree in zoology or biology and intend to work with animals. A zoologist will often work in the field, specializing in one type of animal. This often involves capturing, tagging, or recording the number of animals found in a specific location. Studying animal populations is a very important part of zoology. Zoologists often work for government agencies or private companies, helping people decide how to preserve the animal population in that area. You will do an experiment in a later lesson that will help you understand population growth and decline.

Also, zoologists can become zookeepers or aquarium keepers. Zookeepers usually begin by caring for specific types of animals and their habitats. Eventually they can add more and more animal exhibits to their responsibilities, working their way up to being in charge of the entire zoo. At that point, they are often called zoo curators. In addition to making sure the animals are properly cared for, zookeepers watch for unusual behaviors or illness. They also make sure the animals are groomed, exercised, and trained (if necessary). Zoologists can also get animals for a zoo,

usually from other zoos or breeding programs. Other zoologists work in the zoo as animal behaviorists. These people train other zookeepers on how to interact with and care for the animals. They have experience working with animals, and usually hold a degree in animal behavior.

Zoologists can also spend time as animal educators, helping people understand animals and their habitats. Wildlife parks, sanctuaries, aquariums, and museums hire educators to create brochures, videos, tours, and exhibits. These zoologists often live on the park grounds and study, research, and explore wildlife behavior. They usually write books or magazine articles, which is another way for them to make a living as a zoologist. Animal educators and program directors need a strong background in writing and speaking.

As a zoologist, you can also be a wildlife rehabilitator. In this case, you would work for the government (or some other agency) to care for ill, injured, or orphaned animals with the hope of one day being able to release them back into the wild. Sometimes, wildlife rehabilitators (or other zoologists) become animal trainers at theme parks like SeaWorld or Disney's Animal Kingdom.

These wildlife rehabilitators are capturing an ill sea lion. Once it is nursed back to health, they will hopefully be able to release it back into the wild.

Zoologists can also make wildlife documentaries. These are the informative shows about animals you might watch on Animal Planet or the Discovery Channel. It is a good idea to have experience with filmmaking if you want to make documentaries.

If you plan to become a zoologist, it is important that you learn good communication and writing skills. You will need these skills to help others understand how to protect the animals you study.

Pet Careers

Even if you don't want to get a degree in biology or zoology, there are a lot of careers that involve working with animals. For example, you could become a certified dog trainer, training dogs for all kinds of work, such as guide dogs, police dogs, or inspection dogs. You could also expand your career to include many other kinds of animals. Animal trainers are often hired to train animals to be in movies or television shows. Also, you could become an animal control officer, work at an animal shelter, work at a pet store, or work as a veterinarian technician. Although most of these careers do not require college degrees, they do require lots of knowledge and experience with animals.

Because horses are a favorite animal for many, there are several careers in the equine (horse) field. In addition to becoming a large-animal veterinarian, you could become a horse breeder or a horse trainer. You could also work at a race track or rodeo. Some jobs involving horses are very specific. For example, you could become a farrier (far' ee ur), which is a person who cares specifically for horses' hooves.

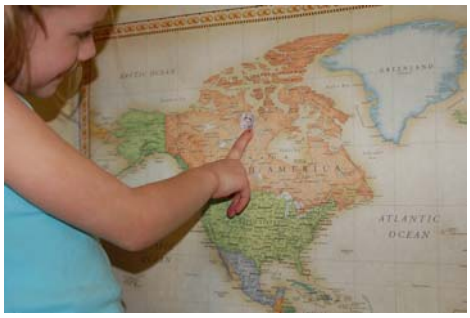
These are only a few of the many kinds of jobs you could get working with animals. Many places that work with animals use student volunteers to help them. Volunteers may clean cages, exercise the animals, or even assist with operations or training. Though volunteers don't get paid, they get a lot of the experience necessary to get a paying job someday.

As you study zoology this year, you might begin to develop your own ideas about what you want to do when you grow up. Whether you choose to work with animals or not, it's a lot of fun to study them.

What Do You Remember?

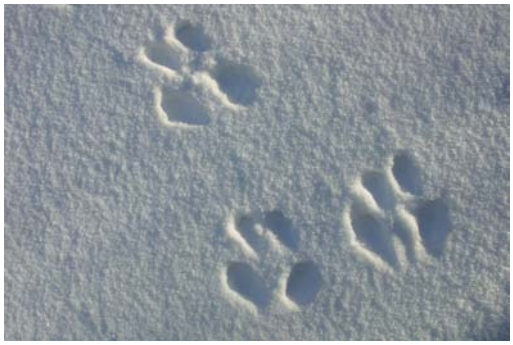
Each lesson will have a section like this. It is designed to help you remember some of the important things you learned in the lesson. For this lesson, explain what animal habituation is. What is a safari? What does it mean to be a predator? What does it mean to be prey? Have there always been predators and prey? What is a zoonotic disease? Name a few careers that involve working with animals.

Map It!



You will be learning about a lot of different types of animals as you go through this book. Each lesson will give you an opportunity to place on a world map small images of the animals you studied. To start this project, get a large world map you can hang on your wall. Throughout the rest of the book, there will be "Map It!" sections that will tell you to map the important animals you have studied. When you reach one of those sections, you need to get a small image of the animal (such as a tiny photograph you printed from the Internet or a tiny drawing you make) and put it on your map over a location where you can typically find the animal. The course website I told you about in the introduction to the book will have links to many websites that contain such pictures.

Track It!



Many lessons will have a "Track It!" section that will include pictures or drawings of animal tracks related to the lesson. These sections will focus on the tracks you might find in North America. You may want to trace or draw these tracks, creating a separate book you can carry with you on hikes or walks in wooded areas. That way, when you come across some tracks, you can try to identify what animal made them. Please note that if you live outside North America, you should check the course website I told you about in the introduction to the book. There you will find links to pictures and drawings of animal tracks that might be found in your area of the world.

Notebook Activities

As you work through this course, you will create your own zoology "Book of Knowledge," also known as your Zoology Notebook. At the end of every lesson, you will have an opportunity to write down what you learned and make an illustration to go along with it. Sometimes you will also be given a creative assignment.

At this time, I want you to create the cover page for your Zoology Notebook. You can cut pictures of animals out of magazines, or print them from the computer if you don't want to draw them yourself. Once you have made your cover, start your zoology notebook with a page about a few of the careers that involve working with animals. Also, draw a picture of two animals that are usually predator and prey, but draw it so that they are enjoying each other's company, much like the picture of the snake and hamster on page 5. If you are having a hard time thinking of animals to draw in the picture, read the Scripture verse next to the picture.

Experiment

Remember how we discussed animals that are either predator or prey? Well, predators and prey need to blend in with their environment so they aren't seen. Prey don't want to be seen so they don't get eaten; predators prefer not to be seen so they can sneak up on their prey. Let's do a little experiment with M&M® candies to see what happens to animals that are well camouflaged and those that are not.

Since you probably like to eat M&M's, you can think of yourself as an M&M's "predator." In this experiment, then, you (the predator) will be hunting for the M&M's (the prey) in a special habitat you create. Then you can discover which M&M's are best suited to survive in this habitat.

You will need:

- Scientific Speculation Sheet (found on page iv of this book)
- A laundry basket or large plastic container
- A bag of M&M's (you can also use Skittles® or any other candy that comes in a variety of colors)
- A plain sheet of white paper
- Clean paper towels
- 21 sheets of construction paper in three different colors matching three of the candies (we used 7 brown, 7 green, and 7 orange.)
- 6 (or more) extra sheets of construction paper to line the laundry basket or container.
- A stopwatch or some other kind of timer

1. On the plain sheet of white paper, make a table like the one below:

	Red M&M's	Brown M&M's	Green M&M's	Yellow M&M's	Orange M&M's	Blue M&M's
Starting Number						
Number Found						
Number Not Found						

2. Lay some paper towels on the floor or on a table and pour your M&M's onto the paper towels.
3. Separate the M&M's into groups according to their color.
4. Count the number of M&M's in each color group. Whichever color has the least number in it will tell you the number of M&M's you will use in each color group. For example, if there are 18 brown, 16 red, 17 yellow, and 14 green M&M's, you will use 14 M&M's in each group.
5. Take the extra M&M's from the other groups so that all the groups have the same number in them.
6. With a parent's permission, eat the rest of the M&M's you will not need.
7. Write the number of M&M's you have in each group (it should be the same number for each color) in the first row of the table you made in step #1.

8. Now you are going to make the habitat. Cover the bottom of the laundry basket with some of the extra sheets of construction paper. They can be all one color or different colors. It doesn't matter.
9. Using the seven sheets for each color, tear each sheet of construction paper into six pieces. It does not matter which way you tear it. Just make six pieces out of one sheet.
10. Crumple up each piece of construction paper and toss it into the basket.

11. After all seven sheets of construction paper of each color have been torn up and the pieces crumpled and put inside the basket, place the other sheets of construction paper on the sides of the basket to cover the holes.
12. Pour the M&M's into the basket, spreading them around evenly.
13. You will have two minutes to search for M&M's in the habitat. Make a hypothesis about what you will find in two minutes. Will you find more of one color than another? If so, which colors will you find the most of? Which will you find the least of? Write down your hypothesis on the Scientific Speculation Sheet.
14. Set the timer for two minutes and begin searching for M&M's.
15. After your time is up, separate the M&M's into color groups and count the ones you found. Record the number of each color you found in the second row of the table you made in step 1.
16. For each color, subtract the number you found from the number you started with. That will be the number you didn't find. Write that number in the third row of the table.
17. Was your hypothesis correct? Complete the rest of the Scientific Speculation Sheet.

Think about what the results of your experiment mean. If M&M's could reproduce and create other M&M's, which M&M's in your habitat would be most likely to reproduce? Which M&M's would have a hard time reproducing? After many years, which M&M's would be most abundant in that habitat? Which M&M's would probably become extinct?

This rabbit blends in well with its snowy surroundings, making it hard for predators to find it. Most likely, natural selection will ensure that such rabbits will thrive in that habitat.

You have just learned a lesson about camouflage and a special process that happens in nature called natural selection. Animals that are best suited for a particular environment, especially those that are able to hide themselves well, are naturally able to survive and reproduce in that environment. Those that cannot hide themselves well tend not to survive. That's called natural selection, because it is almost like the habitat "selects" those animals that are best suited to survive there.

Now if you have heard of evolution before, do not get natural selection and evolution confused. They are two completely different things. Evolution is a idea that some scientists believe in despite the fact that there is very little evidence for it and a lot of evidence against it. Natural selection is a well-documented scientific theory that helps us understand how creation determines what kinds of animals will survive in specific habitats. You will learn more about these things as you go through the rest of this course.