

Chester Zoo - Hands-on Workshop

“Adapting to the environment”

Chester zoo, due to their primary focus on providing enclosures that mirror as closely as possible the natural environment, allows this workshop to relate animal’s physical adaptation to their environment.

We suggest that you focus on a narrow subject area permitting an in-depth consideration of each animal’s adaptation to their niche. At the same time the thinking can be extrapolated out to provide a wider understanding about genetics and evolution.

When covering these topics you will learn how to use photos and videos creatively to present the theme. We suggest ‘Animal's physical adaptation that makes them successful in their environment’. We will also look at how these animals move as a result of the physical adaptation.

About one hour will be spent in the zoo taking your photos/videos so we suggest you restrict the complexity and the length of the project. The suggestions below are animals that are within the proximity of the Education Centre.

1) Creative photo series: take photos of related animals which have visibly different morphology, i.e. difference in body part proportions. Suggestions include:

- Flamingos and penguins: <https://www.chesterzoo.org/zoo-map?Caribbean%20Flamingos>
- Giraffe and okapi - close to each other: <https://www.chesterzoo.org/zoo-map?Okapi>
- Orangutan (or chimpanzees) and humans <https://www.chesterzoo.org/zoo-map?Bornean%20Orangutan>
- Your ideas

Choose the best photos to create a photo series of the different shapes.

2) Video activity: take a video of the animals you chose in part 1). The aim is to investigate how these animals move and how their movement might make them successful in their environment.

Alternatives to movement are:

- Animal activity (or lack of activity)
- Animal behaviour (feeding, social activity, cognitive activity, sound production etc.)
- Animal colouring (bright or camouflage etc.)

Ultimately, the aim is to look at the animals more closely and observe how they have adapted to their environment. Options: edit the video clips; speed changes of the video clips (slow-motion, time-lapse) to slow down fast movements or speed up slow movements.

More support: <http://vidubiology.eu/content/> (module 2).

Map of the zoo near to the education centre (with suggested animals).

