



What's going on this week?

Chester Zoo is the largest zoo in the UK and was closed on 21st March, following lockdown restrictions due to the Covid-19 outbreak. It reopened on 15th June, after being closed for 3 months. During the long period it was closed, the owners were concerned that it may not ever have been able to reopen due to the huge lack of income caused by the closure and the huge costs involved in feeding the animals.

Main question:

Should zoos have been allowed to reopen earlier?

Listen, think, share

- Look at this week's poster and talk about what we can see.
- Explain that this week's story is about zoos around the UK, many of which were at risk of permanent closure because they were only allowed to open very recently.
- Why do you think zoos running costs are so high? Talk about things like the huge costs to feed the animals, the staff costs and the requirements of keeping animals in the correct climate.
- Have you been to a zoo before? If you have, talk about your experience. What did you like about it? Was there anything you didn't like? If you haven't been to one before, would you like to? Why?
- What do you think is the main purpose of zoos? Talk through reasons such as for conservation purposes or education.
- Read through the assembly resource, which provides information about Chester Zoo, including the running costs. How do we feel about this issue? Does any of the information surprise you?
- Watch this week's useful video (found overleaf), which shows people talking about zoos being closed. Who do you think is most affected by the closures? Do you think they should have been allowed to reopen earlier?

Reflection

Zoos cost huge amounts of money to run and have had to close for many months due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Many have been finding innovative ways to keep people informed and learn about different animals, whilst raising money to keep the animals fed and taken care of.



KS1 Focus

Question:

What are zoos?

Listen, think, share

- Write the word 'zoo'. Have you heard of a zoo before? Explain that a zoo is a place where a collection of wild animals are kept and cared for.
- Think about what a wild animal is. Wild animals are animals that would usually look after themselves and live in a natural environment. Can you make a list of wild animals e.g. lion, giraffe, zebra, fox.
- Look at resource 1, which shows some of the wild animals you might find if you visited a zoo. Do you recognise them all? Have you ever seen any of them for real? Which one is your favourite?
- Use the link to look at the animal collection found at Chester Zoo or find out some examples of other wild animals we might find in a zoo.
- Have you ever visited a zoo before? If not, has anyone you know visited? What was it like? Did you/they enjoy their visit?
- Explain, that for many people, they would not get to see these animals for real if they weren't able to visit a zoo. Many of the wild animals found in zoos live in other countries in their natural environment. Some of them are even struggling to survive. We call these animals endangered. Zoos can sometimes help to stop these animals from becoming extinct.

Reflection

A zoo is a place where a collection of wild animals are kept and cared for. Some people enjoy visiting zoos so they can see and learn about wild animals they may never have the opportunity to see in the wild.



KS2 Focus

Question:

Why do we have zoos?

Listen, think, share

- Think about zoos. Have you ever visited one before? Why have or haven't you visited? If you have visited, did you enjoy it? If you haven't, would you like to go?
- Do you have a favourite wild animal? What is it? Why do you like it? Have you/would you like to see it for real?
- Look at resource 2, which shares why some people think we have zoos. Do you agree/disagree with any of the opinions? Why do you think we have zoos? How do you feel about them?
- People's opinions of zoos are often divided. Some people believe we should have zoos; others are against them. Do the reasons why we have them outweigh the reasons why we shouldn't? Does it depend on the zoo? Are zoos that keep animals that are well cared for and have large enclosures that are similar to their natural habitat a positive thing?
- Explain that zoos in the UK (unless it is a very small zoo) have to have a license and are subject to inspections. Do you think this is important?
- The South China Tiger is a critically endangered species. It is thought to be extinct in the wild as it has not been sighted since 1970. There are some that survive in reserves and zoos today. Do you think this species would still be here without the intervention of humans?

Reflection

There are many reasons why we have zoos. They allow people to learn about wild animals, connect with nature and learn about conservation. Many zoos care for endangered animals, some of which may be extinct without their intervention.

KS2 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Make a plan for a poster to advertise Chester Zoo or another zoo that you know. Think about the following:

- Title
- Catchy slogan
- Short, snappy sentences
- Persuasive and emotive language
- An offer e.g. free child entry for every three adult tickets purchased
- Pictures/photographs
- Information e.g. price, opening times

Create the poster. Make sure you use colour, different fonts, bold writing etc to make your poster eye-catching. Perhaps you could send your poster to your chosen zoo? You never know, they might use it!

Option 2: A silhouette is an image of something that is represented as a solid shape or single colour so that we only see the outline. Create some wild animal silhouettes! Think about:

- Which animals will you draw?
- Are the silhouettes of some animals easier to create than others? Why? E.g. those with distinct features such as a trunk may be more recognisable.
- What size will your silhouettes be? If they are too small, will they be tricky to cut out or recognise?

Use your silhouettes to create a picture or make a shadow show using a torch and a dark room.

KS1 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Think about a wild animal that you might find in a zoo or your favourite wild animal. Can you find out some more information about it?

- Where does it live?
- What does it eat?
- What does it look like?
- What size is it?
- Are there any other interesting facts about your wild animal?

Use the information to create a fact file of your wild animal. Don't forget to include a picture!

Option 2: Look at a world map.

- Can you name the seven continents?
- Locate Europe. The UK is part of Europe.
- Locate the UK.
- Can you find the equator?
- Have you ever visited another continent?

Explain that often the wild animals we see in zoos are not found living in their natural environment in the UK. They are found in other parts of the world. Using books or the internet, find a wild animal that lives on each continent e.g. lion, elephant.

- Can some wild animals be found living in more than one part of the world?

This Week's Useful Websites

[This week's news story](#)

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-52986783



This Week's Useful Videos

[Zoos at risk of closure](#)

www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52483218



[This week's Virtual Assembly](#)

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This Week's Useful Vocabulary

Conservation – saving and protecting the environment and wildlife.

Income – money that is received, especially on a regular basis, from work or through investments.

Innovative – something that is new, advanced and original.

Permanent – something that lasts forever.

Requirements – something that is needed or wanted; it is a necessary condition.

Restrictions – something that limits what you can do e.g. an official rule or law.