



Worksheet 1.1

The Economics of Zoo Keeping

This activity can be done individually or in small groups. You may do it as a homework assignment or as an in-class activity.

Directions: You are the manager of a new business that has decided to open a zoo. Your zoo is a private, profit-seeking business that will charge admission to visitors. The purpose of the zoo, as with any business, is to earn a profit.

Your task is as follows:

1. You have to decide which animals to include in your zoo, but space is limited.
2. You have 25 acres on which to build your zoo.
3. Each type of animal requires a different amount of space, so you must choose which animals to put in your zoo. Remember, you need at least one male and one female of each animal so they can reproduce.
4. With your business partners, choose which animals you will put in your zoo.

Below each animal is the number of acres just one of the animals requires. For example, one lion requires two acres of land. If you want four lions, therefore, you must use eight of your 25 acres for lions.

Take a large piece of paper (at least A3) and using a marker, design the layout of your zoo. The paper represents the 25 acres you have for animals. Once you have decided which animals to include, how many of each animal, and calculated how many acres are to be used for each animal, cut out the animals you have chosen and paste each animal into its dedicated enclosure.

Once you have completed construction of your zoo, answer the discussion questions that follow.

Take 8–10 minutes to make your selections.



Lion – 2 acres



Giraffe – 1 acre



Camel – 1/2 acre



Seal – 1/2 acre



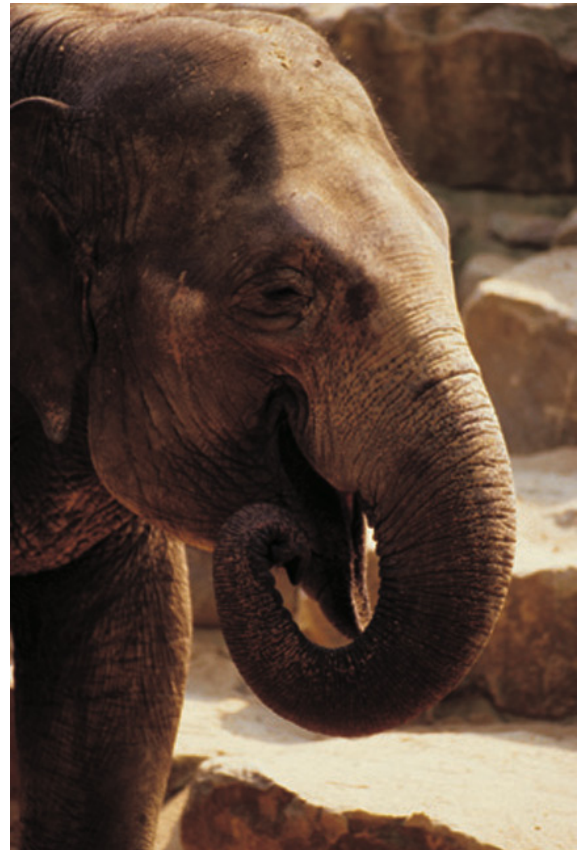
Cheetah – 1 acres



Cow – 1/3 acre



Monkey – 1/2 acre



Asian Elephant – 1 acre



African Elephant – 3 acres



Reptile House – 5 acres



Hammerhead Shark – 1/2 acre



Kangaroo – 1/2 acre



Tiger – 1 acre



House of Birds – 5 acres

Discussion Questions

1. Did every animal make it into your zoo? Why or why not?
2. Did you include a turkey or a cow in your zoo? Why or why not?
3. Why didn't you have a zoo with only monkeys?
4. Which type of elephant did you choose? Why did you choose the type you did and not the other?
5. What was the last animal to make the cut for your zoo?
6. What was the animal that just missed the cut for your zoo?
7. Did everyone in your group agree to include the same animals?
8. Would everyone in your group have made the same choices if they did it alone?

Once you have answered the discussion questions, download the presentation titled ‘Zoolinomics – discussion questions and answers’.