RESEARCH IN ACTION
INQUIRING MINDS AT ZOO ATLANTA

Asking questions and investigating the answers is a part of everyday life at Zoo Atlanta. The Zoo is always striving to learn as much as we can about our animal ambassadors. Knowing more allows the Zoo to provide the best care for the animals at the Zoo, but it also allows us to learn from nature and improve the lives of humans. Starting with the question, “What am I curious about?”, we work in teams to form a hypothesis, experiment, and analyze data collected before sharing our findings and designing our next question.

Follow along with the Research Team as they use the scientific inquiry process to explore how the elephant trunk works.

PROJECT STATUS:
This project is part of a long-standing collaboration between Zoo Atlanta and Georgia Tech. Working together, we have learned more about animals and the ways they are adapted to their unique habitats. Many of these findings have led to innovations for solutions to human problems. Meet the Elephant Trunk Project Research Team: Andreas Schiller and Hannah Expert.

Andrew is a Ph.D. student in mechanical engineering at Georgia Tech studying the elephant trunk with Zoo Atlanta. In addition to studying the elephant trunk, he works to understand ways engineers can work with organizations like Zoo Atlanta to help build ideas that will help save wildlife from extinction, a goal known as conservation technology. Hannah Expert is the Elephant Program Manager and the Lead Keeper of Elephants at Zoo Atlanta. Hannah has worked with elephants and researchers like Andrew for well over a decade, helping to increase our knowledge of African elephants and how we can best care for them. Hannah currently serves on the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Elephants Task Advisory Group (E-TAG) and Special Syndicate (SS-15) Steering Committee and is a contributing member and committee chair for the Elephants Managers’ Association.

Scan here for more information!

ZOOATLANTA.ORG/EDUCATIONPOSTER

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Dear Educators,

At Zoo Atlanta, our mission is to "save wildlife and their habitats through conservation, research, education, and engaging experiences. Our efforts connect people to animals and inspire conservation action." With a long history of conservation and research projects, Zoo Atlanta is continuously learning about the natural world and the ways we can better understand wildlife and conserve species. The Zoo has a practice of asking questions and seeking answers as part of research studies focused among animal populations, both at the Zoo and in the wild. In addition, Zoo Atlanta performs research that focuses on guest impact, perceptions, and educational program outcomes. All these research projects are part of the way the Zoo measures impact and progress in achieving our mission.

Nature has a lot to teach us if we just take the time to look. We hope this poster will enhance your curriculum by encouraging your students to look to nature for inspiration. In addition, we hope you will visit the research section of Zoo Atlanta to learn more about this project, as well as the numerous other projects that Zoo Atlanta is involved in.

On behalf of the entire team at Zoo Atlanta, we invite you to visit us this school year to see our African elephants, giant pandas, Komodo dragons, bald eagles, and many more. We are a living resource right in the heart of Atlanta—just waiting to be used as a classroom resource for your students! If you can't make it to the Zoo, check out the ways you can bring Zoo Atlanta to your classroom. The Zoo's library of resources is always growing. From our YouTube page and ZooTV video series to Cases for Conservation (free to borrow) and our Education Poster webpage, there is something for every grade level.

And we're looking for more opportunities for curriculum connections. We're bringing a point of view to you with topics for Pre-K to 12, our Educators will help your classroom engage your students in hands-on, minds-on programming sure to spur their interest in the natural world.

Working together, we can inspire the next generation of innovative, STEM literate, conservation-minded students.

Let's get started!

Best,
Mark Wrench
Senior Director of Education

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