SUMMING UP THE AFRICAN VELDT

Learning about adaptations through multiplication and observation at the zoo

OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn about adaptations in African animals through observation at the zoo.
- Students will use multiplication and addition to quantify adaptations and animals that were observed.
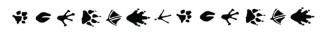
PROCEDURE

- This activity must be completed at the zoo. Have students observe each of the animals on the worksheet for the characteristics that are listed.
- Then, have students follow the directions in each problem to quantify the adaptations that are associated with each animal. Calculators may be used if necessary.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Have students discuss their answers with each other or have a parent or chaperone complete the assignment and use their answers as an answer key.
- Lead a discussion with the students about how each adaptation would be helpful to the animal in the wild.

EXTENSIONS

- To learn more about animal adaptations in the African veldt, complete the activity "Yipes, Zebra Stripes" about zebra species and their stripe patterns.

Name _____

All animals have developed *adaptations* that help them find food and hide from predators. Stalk the African veldt at the zoo to see how many animal adaptations you can spot. It's guaranteed to multiply into a fun experience!

Fill in each line in the sentences with the total number of each animal seen during your visit. Calculate a solution to each problem and put your answer on the line to the right.

1. The average ZEBRA has as many as 50 stripes.
    _____ zebras were spotted on the African veldt today.

    _____
    total stripes

2. If the average zebra here in Africa equals 1,000 animals,
    how many stripes would be found in a herd?

    _____
    herd stripes

3. The drawing of the OSTRICH'S foot shows _____ toes.
    _____ ostriches were out on the veldt today.

    _____
    ostrich toes

4. Marabou, White, and Black STORKS have _____ toes.
    Therefore, _____ storks on the veldt equals how many toes?

    _____
    stork toes

5. GIRAFFES have long, flexible tongues that grab leaves off the thorny
    acacia trees in Africa. If the average giraffe is able to eat 25 acacia leaves
    in one hour, how many acacia leaves would be eaten in one hour by the giraffes
    on the veldt today? (Hint: how many giraffes are seen on the Veldt today?)

    _____
    acacia leaves

6. The WILDEBEEST eats grass and hay all day on the veldt. If each wildebeest eats
    20 pounds of grass and hay every day, how many pounds of grass and hay will be
    eaten by the wildebeest on the Veldt today?

    _____
    pounds