



## PROGRAM GOALS

- ☛ Understand the relationship between predators and preys
- ☛ Understand the limitations that affect wildlife populations

## GRADES

4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>

## MATERIALS

- ☛ Food tokens – can be pieces of cardboards (3 per students)
- ☛ Gym vests or other device to mark predators
- ☛ Chalk to draw 4 to 5 circles that will serve as shelters

## STANDARDS

- ☛ SCI.3.3.1
- ☛ SCI.4.3.3
- ☛ SCI.4.3.4
- ☛ SCI.6.3.2
- ☛ SCI.6.3.3

## RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- ☛ Ensure the students are actively engaged
- ☛ Discuss with students how prey techniques such as freezing, aid in

## Freeze like Animals to Survive!

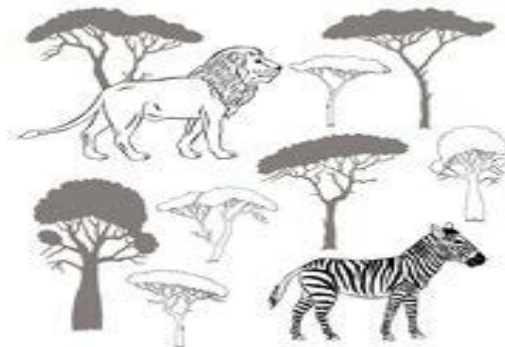
Practice your students' critical thinking skills as they learn about the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo birds! When prey feels threatened by a predator, they can "freeze" in place as an attempt to avoid them. See below for a variety of questions to engage your student even further:

- ☛ Do you know what a predator is? Prey?
- ☛ Why are there predators and preys?
- ☛ What techniques does prey have to protect themselves from predators?
- ☛ How long do you think a prey can stay still?

Select any of these following pairs of animals: lion/zebra, crocodile/wildebeest, hyena/gazelle, and assign roles to students. Identify one end of pavement as the "food source" and the other end as the "permanent shelters." Place the food tokens in the food source area. Predators should be identified with gym vests. Use a whistle or other signal to begin each round.

The prey animals should move from their shelter toward the food source, collecting one food token each trip, and returning to the permanent shelter. In order to survive, the prey must obtain three food tokens. They must stay alert to predators, and they can alert other prey with a warning. Prey has two ways to avoid being caught by predators: they can "freeze" any time the predator is within five feet of them or run for cover. Frozen prey may blink, but they must remain still without talking. Predators begin by standing anywhere in the open field, and they must capture prey to survive, but they can only tag moving prey (not "frozen" prey). Predators must capture two prey to survive. Captured prey is taken to the sidelines by the predator who caught them.

A time limit of five to seven minutes is suggested for each round. Play four rounds, allowing each student to be both predator and prey. Remind prey that they can remain frozen for as long as they like, but if prey does not have enough food at the end of the activity, they will starve to death. In nature, an animal must sometimes balance the need for food with the conflicting need for safety.



Be on the lookout for the animals that are predators and preys at the zoo! Share your lessons with the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo. Tag #fwkidszoo or email [education@kidszoo.org](mailto:education@kidszoo.org) to express how you used these supplemental activities!