

GRADE

- 1st Grade

MATERIALS

- Pencils
- Clipboards
- Worksheet

What do animals eat?

Introduction: Students will be detectives to investigate what different animals eat.

Goal: Students will practice observation and critical thinking skills as they figure out what different animals eat.

Instructions: Give each student a worksheet and encourage them to observe the animals, signs, and habitats to help figure out what each animal eats, then circle the correct answer.

Background Information: Animals need different foods to help them survive. Animals that are herbivores eat plants, like grass, leaves, and fruits. Animals that are carnivores eat meat or fish. Animals that are omnivores eat both plants *and* meat/fish. You can tell a lot about what an animal eats by looking at it! Sharp teeth and claws can help animals catch prey. Flat teeth can help animals chew on plants. For example, lions have large canine teeth and sharp molars which help them tear into meat. Zebras have sharp incisors for cutting grass, and large, flat molars for grinding down the plants. Wattled Cranes have long, sharp beaks that help them probe in deep mud or water for vegetation, insects, and even frogs, snakes, and small fish.

Conservation message: All animals need the right food to survive and be healthy. If animals lose their homes, they may not be able to find the food they need. Sadly, animals are losing their homes every day due to habitat loss. You can help save these animals' homes by picking up trash, recycling, and visiting the zoo. What are some other ways you can help these animals? When we protect animal homes, we help make sure animals can find the food they need.

Answer Key:

- Lions are carnivores. They primarily eat wildebeest, zebras, buffalo, and various species of antelope.
- Zebras are herbivores. They primarily eat grass, but they also eat leaves, shrubs, bark, and twigs.
- Wattled Cranes are omnivores. They primarily eat aquatic vegetation, but also eat snails, small fish, frogs, insects, and even snakes.
- Red Pandas are omnivores. They primarily eat bamboo, but also eat other vegetation and fruits, and occasionally will eat insects, eggs, and small rodents.
- Orangutans are omnivores. They primarily eat various kinds of fruits, but will also eat insects, eggs, and small mammals.
- Penguins are carnivores. They primarily eat fish, squid, and krill.
- Cownose Stingrays are carnivores. They primarily eat clams, oysters, mussels, and crustaceans.
- Kangaroos are herbivores. They primarily eat grass, but will also eat leaves, shrubs, and flowers.
- Donkeys are herbivores. They primarily eat dry grass, but also eat shrubs, tree bark, and leaves.

Name:



Directions:

Observe these animals, read information signs, and talk to zoo staff to determine if each animal is a carnivore, an herbivore, or an omnivore. Write your answers below each animal.

Lion

Wattled Crane

Zebra

Red Panda

Orangutan

Penguin

Cownose Ray

Kangaroo

Donkey
