



The Zoo

Level A / 52 words / informational text

High frequency words:

a, am, an, at, I, see, the

Before reading

- Look at the cover and read the title.
- Possible discussion questions: "Have you ever been to the zoo? What animals did you see when you were at the zoo?"

Look through all the pictures

- Using the language in the story, discuss what animal you see in each picture.
- Introduce and find the new words: *bear, camels, elephant, giraffes, lion, rhinoceros, and tiger.*
- Help the children find and read the word *here*.
- Find the words *see* and *am*. Have students locate these words by predicting how the words begin.

Reading the text

- Have the children read the text independently. Encourage them to read it again if they finish before the others in the group.
- While they're reading, listen to each student individually and prompt them to use meaning, structure, and letter cues at difficulty. Praise the successful use of reading cues.
- Make sure the children can match (with their finger) or track (with their eyes) each word of the text.

After reading

- Discuss the meaning, structure, and letter cues that you noticed students using correctly at difficulty.

- **Literal comprehension:** The answers are in the text. Ask, "What are some animals the child telling the story saw at the zoo?" Have students read the pages that support their answers.

- **Inferential comprehension:** The answers are in your head. Ask, "What are some other animals you would expect to see at the zoo?"

Word work

- Have students locate the high-frequency words in the text and practice writing them.

Rereading for fluency

- Have the children read the story again, either independently or with a partner.
- Use this opportunity to listen to each child and again prompt for strategy use at difficulty.

Writing activity

- Have students name some zoo animals and write the names on the board. Have the students draw a picture of their favorite zoo animal and write a sentence about it. Students may dictate to the teacher as necessary.
- Encourage the use of punctuation and independent attempts to spell words correctly.

FUN FACT

The United States has more than 350 zoos.
The oldest is the Philadelphia Zoo in Pennsylvania,
which opened in 1874.

Teaching Points: Using meaning to connect pictures to text; Matching words to print, one to one; Supporting proper directionality (left to right); Introducing new animal words; Oral language development; Introducing new words.