



**Educational Package of Suggested Activities for**  
**JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN**  
**AND**  
**SENIOR KINDERGARTEN**

## **WELCOME TO SAFARI NIAGARA**

**A class visit to a zoo or nature park such as Safari Niagara is an excellent learning opportunity for students in any grade level. For many grades the experience can fulfill program goals or expectations from Ministry of Education Curriculum Documents, notably Science and Technology 2007 and Social Studies 2004.**

**Even where, at a particular grade level, there is no direct link to the curriculum documents there are opportunities for you, the teacher, to connect pre visit, on-site and post visit classroom activities to the hands-on experience of the day.**

**The management of Safari Niagara recognized these direct and implied connections beginning with the inception and opening of the park. To assist you in planning for your visit we assembled a team of teachers at all grade levels to produce materials which will hopefully be of use to you. These curriculum materials have been upgraded several times as Ministry of Education documents were revised. However, the suggested activities remain essentially the same because good teaching ideas are forever!**

**You may note that the format of the attached materials can vary from grade to grade. This reflects the philosophy, experience and teaching styles of the writers. It is expected that in using the materials you will adapt them to your own classroom environment, picking and choosing those most suited to your style.**

**Regardless of how you plan to enhance your visit to our facility by classroom activities the fundamental truths remain. Zoos and nature parks today are becoming both a last refuge for many endangered species and a hope for their recovery at some point in the future. Humankind must accept the responsibility for the recovery of the planet. The closer we can get our students to physical contact with the real world and the wonders of nature the more they will, as adults, appreciate the gravity of this task.**

## **Unit for Kindergarten**

This integrated kindergarten unit based on a half day visit to Safari Niagara. It is organized into pre-visit, on sight and post-visit activities. Depending on your class you will need three to four days to complete the pre-visit activities and about a week for the post-visit activities.

Parent volunteers, for this trip, will need to be given information to prepare them to assist the students in making observations during the tour. Suggestions for this are provided.

The activities are arranged first to allow children to express ideas and information that they already know. They are then encouraged to ask questions that interest them and finally opportunities are provided for them to share and display the information learned through activities and discussions.

This unit provides opportunities for the children to meet the following expectations from the Kindergarten Program:

### **Language**

- Describe personal experiences and retell familiar stories, using appropriate vocabulary and story structure.
- Use language to connect new experiences with what they already know
- Listen to stories, poems, and non-fiction materials for enjoyment and information
- Write simple messages using a combination of pictures, symbols, letters, phonetic spellings and familiar words.
- Contribute words or sentences to a class narrative that is written down on a chart by the teacher

### **Mathematics**

- Sort and classify objects into sets according to specific characteristics and describe those characteristics
- Match objects by one to one correspondence
- Identify and sort two and three dimensional objects
- Place specific types of objects on concrete graphs and picto-graphs

### **Science and Technology**

- Identify patterns and cycles in the natural world
- Describe local and natural habitats

### **The Arts**

- Show skill in cutting, pasting and painting
- Make preparations for a performance
- Perform in a group

### ***Suggested Pre-Visit Activities***

#### ***Activity One***

Have the children recall previous trips to a zoo. Discuss expectations of what they think they will see at Safari Niagara. (E.g. enclosures, cages, wild animals, shelters, trails, maps, guides and caregivers for animals) These predictions may be recorded on a cooperative chart to be used following the trip.

#### ***Activity Two***

Read to the class from a selection of stories and poems about zoos and zoo animals. (See Attached suggestions) Through class discussion, draw out information and new facts they have learned, Have the children ask questions regarding things they would like to know or learn about. Begin cooperative chart recording information they know and a second to indicate what they would like to learn following each selection of literature.

### ***Suggested On Site Activities***

You may wish to ride the tram to the central pavilion and then divide into small groups to continue your tour. The adult supervisors will need to focus the students' attention on the material and activities that you choose for your class.

#### ***Activity Three***

Encourage the children to observe the metal sculptures throughout the zoo and recall names of the geometric shapes and solids. During a specified duration of time, see how many of a certain shape or solid they can find.

#### ***Activity Four***

Observe the habitat and physical appearance of different animals during your tour and then discuss why that habitat is suited to the particular animal.

### ***Suggested Post-Visit Activities***

#### ***Activity Five***

Recall the cooperative charts started in activities 1 and 2. Discuss which of the children's predictions about what they expected to see at Safari Niagara were correct.

Complete the information from activity two by recording new information the children have learned and confirming or disapproving their previous knowledge prior to the trip.

#### ***Activity Six***

At the block centre or sand table, create three dimensional representations of a zoo. Have the children make pictures of their structures and copy labels of the zoo components from charts or word cards for a more challenging extension. Encourage the children to explain their diagrams/maps to the class at sharing.

#### ***Activity Seven***

Have the children arrange plastic zoo animals into sets, identifying their criteria. Have them sort using different criteria if possible. Children may record their work using pictures, words or stamps etc. to share with others.

### **Activity Eight**

Have the children match animals (goose, bear, monkey, and giraffe) to their habitats. Cut and paste the animals to the correct habitat. Have the children colour their work (See black line masters for materials)

### **Activity Nine**

Look at pictures and recall the appearances of the zebra, tiger, giraffe and leopard. Instruct the children to draw and colour the pattern on the coats of these animals. Afterwards, they can complete the pictures by drawing and colouring the habitats surrounding the animals.

### **Activity Ten**

- (a) Using plastic zoo animals, graph animals according to one characteristic or attribute on plastic or paper floor graph. This may be completed as an individual, small group or whole class activity. (e.g. Size, method of movement, body covering, number of legs)
- (b) Make a cooperative chart listing some favourite animals recalled from the trip. From this data make a bar graph on chart paper recording the children's favourite animals.

5			
4			
3			
2			
1			
#	Monkey	Lion	Giraffe

### **Activity Eleven**

Encourage the children to make use of the paint centre to depict animals or scenes from their trip to Safari Niagara. Display them on a bulletin board to communicate with other classes about your trip.

### **Activity Twelve**

Select a favourite poem or song about zoos or zoo animals and practice it to perform for another group (assembly, parents or another class) you might try "*Mammalabelia*" Poems and painting by Douglas Florian ISBN 0-15-202167-1

### ***The Coyote***

*"I prowl  
I growl  
My Howl  
Is throaty  
I love a vowel  
For I am Coyoooooote"*

### ***Activity Thirteen***

Using mask black line masters, have the children colour and cut out the shapes to make masks or head bands to wear. With these masks or others they have created or found, have the children prepare informal plays based on observations during their trip, ideas from stories, or their own ideas.

### ***Activity Fourteen***

Share the pattern story *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?* By Bill Martin Jr. There is a new edition illustrated by Eric Carle ISBN 0-8050-1744-5 that you may wish to use. After several readings invite the children to orally change the text to reflect their trip to Safari Niagara. When they have the idea, introduce a new page (see below) to record their personal choice of animal for a class big book. With very large classes work can be organized into two or three smaller books. This will allow several children to work on the same animal if they wish.

I see a _____ looking at me
_____, _____, what do you see

### **Materials:**

- Plastic Zoo Animals
- Puzzles
- Construction toys for building zoo (e.g. blocks, legos, duplo, etc)
- Animal Lotto

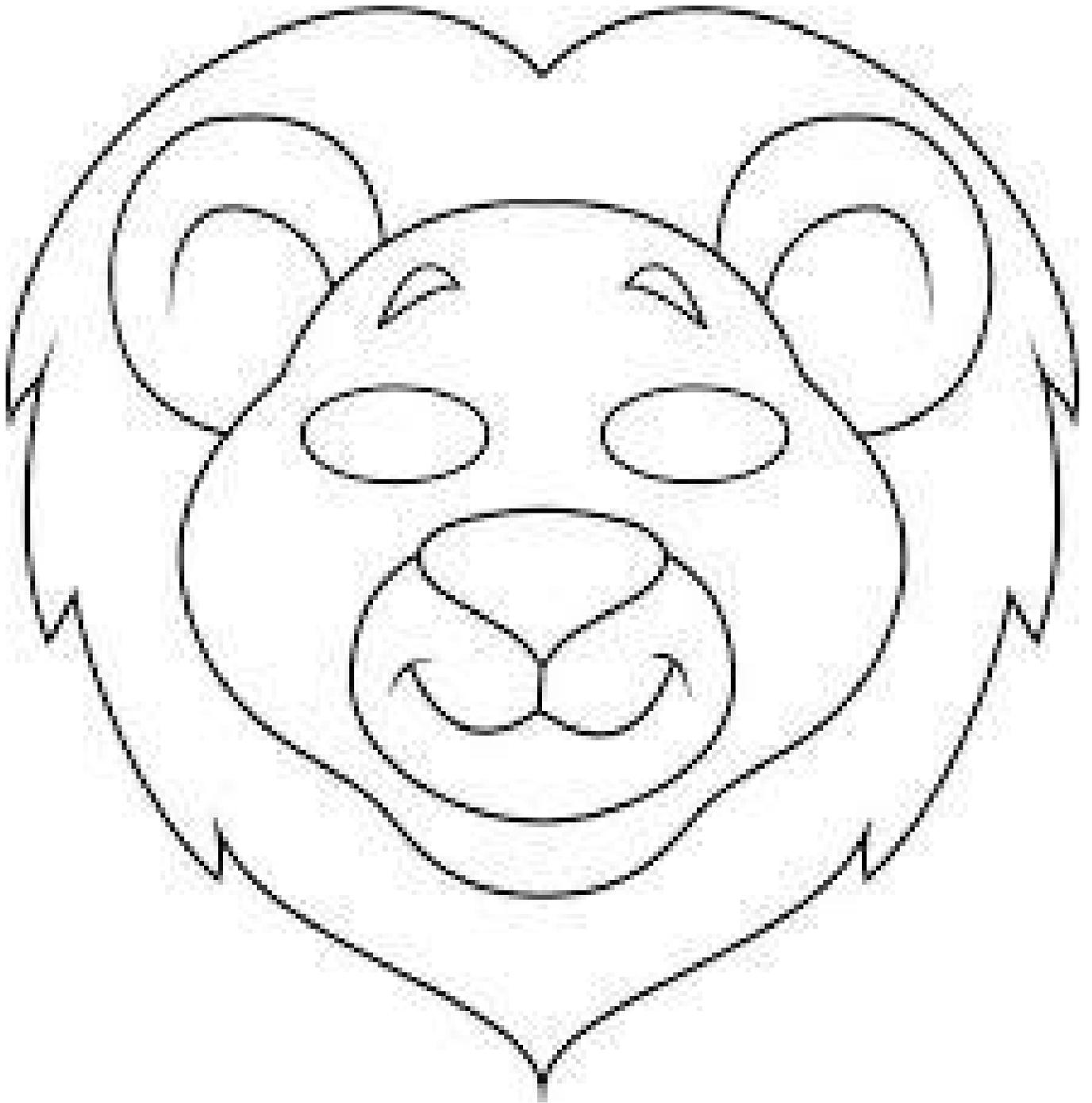
## Games

- Place the small pictures of animals (see black line master) in a bag and have a child choose one, and describe it without saying the animal's name. The child who guesses correctly chooses next
- Distribute sets of four cards (four or five sets with three or four of the same animal is a set) to the class in the gym. Each child looks at his/her card and on a signal moves like and/or makes a sound like his/her animal. He tries to find others like him. When all the set locates each other they form a zoo group and sit down quietly. Cards may be collected, shuffled and the game played again.

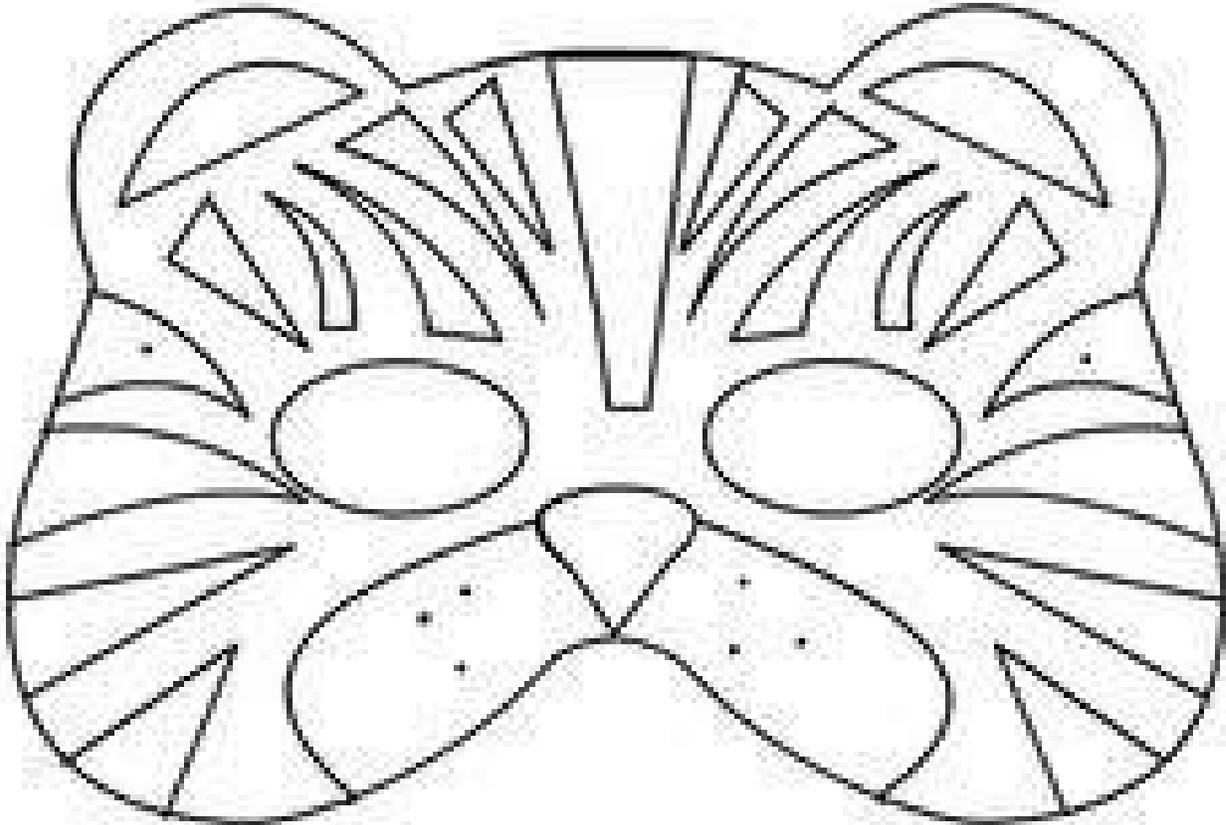
## Additional Resources and Bibliography

Title	Author	ISBN/Company
Corduroy at the Zoo	Don Freeman, Lisa McCue and BG Hennessy	0670892882
Mammalabelia	Douglas Florian	0-5202167-2
Last Night At The Zoo	Michael Garland	156397-759-1
Curious George Visits The Zoo	H.A. Rey	
If I Ran The Zoo	Dr. Seuss	0394-80081-8
Mog At The Zoo	Helen Nicholl, Jan Pienkowski	
Nighttime at the Zoo	Philip Dale Smith & Gwen Smith	
Zoo At Night	Michela Rosen & B Wiley	
Playtime for Animals	Carolyn Arnold & R Hewitt	
Peculiar Zoo	Barry L Polisar & David Clark	
Zoo	Amy Moses	
Opposite Zoo	Steven Walker	
One Two Three at the Zoo	Eric Carle	
Zoo Looking	Mem Fox	
Splash Time for Zoo Animals	Carolyn Arnold & R Hewitt	
Zoo	Gail Gibbons	
My Visit To The Zoo	Aliki	
Feeding Time At The Zoo	Sherry Shahan	
I Went To The Zoo	Maryann Kovalsk	

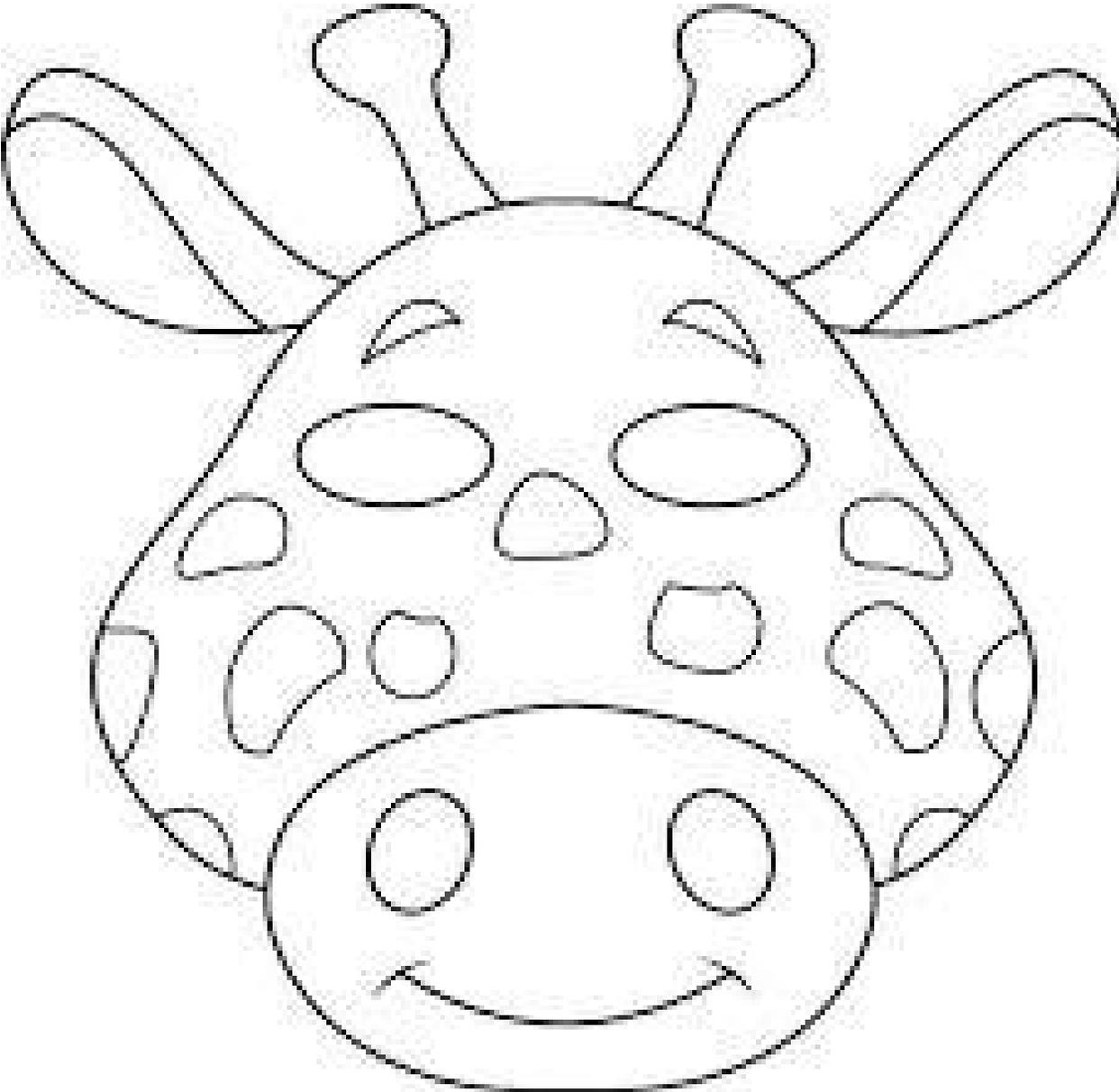
Lion Mask



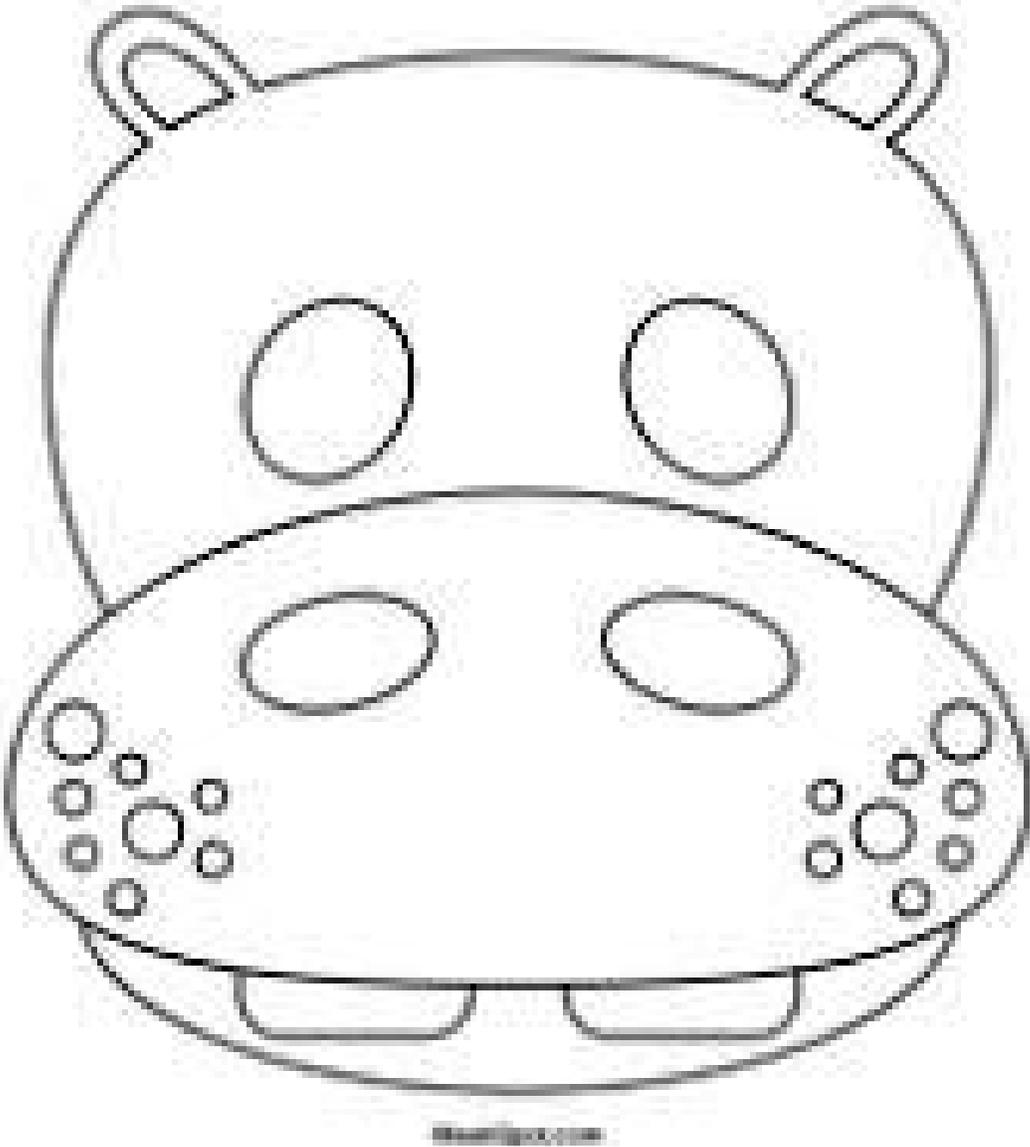
Tiger Mask



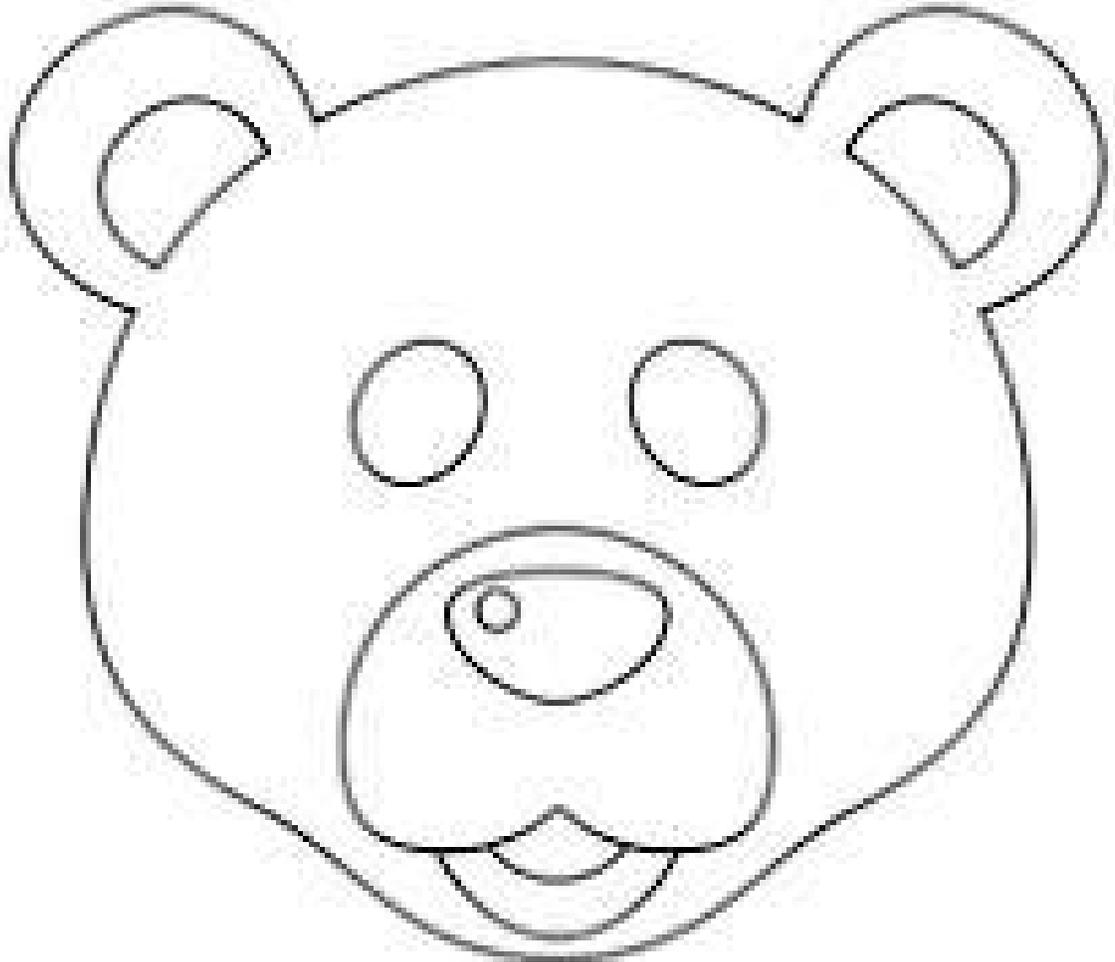
Giraffe Mask



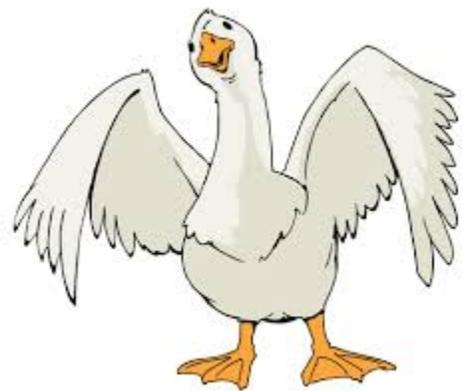
Hippo Mask



Bear Mask



Cut out pieces below and match with correct habitat







Animal Cards for Gym Game

Alligator



Cheetah



Flamingo



Giraffe



Kangaroo



Leopard



Lion



Monkey



Hippopotamus



Chimpanzee



Rhinoceros



Tiger

