

Thank you for choosing the Oregon Zoo for your field trip destination and helping us make a better future for wildlife. We look forward to seeing you and hope you enjoy your visit.

The activities in this guide explore the different types of coverings that can be found on animals. They are designed to help you maximize your students' education experience during and following their zoo field trip. All activities are aligned to core academic standards and address the following Essential and Guiding questions:

- What covers the bodies of different animals?
- Why do animals have body coverings?

The Oregon Zoo hopes that as a result of this program students will be able to:

- Use observation skills to describe four different body coverings.
- Sort animals by their body covering.
- Name one way an animal uses its body covering.

Background for Teachers:

Animals wear a variety of different coverings - fur, feathers, scales or hard exoskeletons. An animal's body covering helps it to survive and is one of the ways you can tell different groups of animals apart. For example:

- Birds have feathers that help them fly
- Mammals have fur or hair (even though sometimes just a little bit) that keeps them warm
- Reptiles have dry scales (unless they spend time in water) that act like armor to keep them safe
- Insects and spiders have hard exoskeletons that acts like armor

At the Zoo Activity

Download and print the student version of *Eco Explorer: Critter Coverings* at <https://www.oregonzoo.org/discover/field-trips-and-school-programs/teacher-resources>

In this activity, chaperones will encourage students to take a close look at what an animal is "wearing" and record answers in the table provided.

Post-Field Trip Activity

Materials:

- Four sheets of poster board
- Magazines with animal pictures
- Scissors
- Glue

Classroom Connections

Pre-K – Critter Coverings



Lesson:

- Review with students the different types of body coverings observed on animals at the zoo.
- Get four sheets of poster board. Draw a picture and label one showing fur. Repeat for each of the other body coverings using a clean sheet of poster board.
- Ask students to find pictures of animals with each of the body coverings and glue to the correct poster.
- Display collages around the room.
- Discuss why each animal might have that type of covering.
- Summarize by telling students that an animal's body covering is important because it helps it to survive.