

**CPSG101 Science & Global Change Colloquium**  
**National Zoological Garden, Washington, DC**  
**May 5, 2024**

Make sure you COMPLETELY answer the questions. The assignment itself will be written as a webpage, mounted to your sgc folder on terpconnect, and linked to your ePortfolio. Please get **one or more photos from the trip** (possibly with you in them) to help illustrate your page

We plan to meet at 10:45 am at the Connecticut Avenue entrance (see the Zoo Map: <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/visit/zoo-map>)

**ZOO BUILDINGS**

The Zoo has grouped some collections of animals (often some of their smaller ones) in a single thematic building. Some of these buildings are organized by a particular group of animals, sometimes by region or habitat, or sometimes by another theme. Choose **two (2)** of the following buildings and explore them: Amazonia, Reptile Discovery Center, Small Mammal House, or the newly-reopened Bird House (for the latter you will need to get a free timed entry digital pass; there are QR codes posted around the park to help with this).

One of these halls has to be a guided tour of a hall by one of the SGC faculty. Currently we plan our tours for 1 pm:

- Dr. Holtz at the Reptile Discovery Center
- Dr. Merck at Amazonia

For each, identify the one you chose. Describe:

- What information is listed for each species
- List at least four (4) species that are on display
- If any, what types of displays that go beyond simple identifying text on a panel are available in this building? (These might be interactive displays, videos, skeletons, or others.) Did you find them to be informative? (These interactives are not necessarily at the four species' displays.)
- What education level you think the hall is aimed at
- Whether or not you see if any non-SGCer is actually paying attention to the information plaques and/or interactive displays

Bird House:

- Info listed: where they're found, types of ducks, what they eat
- Species on display: sandpipers, ruddy duck, red-winged blackbird, and canvasback
- A little book showing a menu for the birds, it was very informative
- Middle school or elementary
- Yes, they are interactive

Amazonia:

- Info listed: descriptions of their species, how they eat, their natural environment
- Species on display: freshwater stingray, oscar, red tail catfish, arapaima
- Interactive statue to show the positive and negative ends of an eel

- Middle school
- Yes, people are interacting with the displays

### **EDUCATION**

Additionally, zoos are major centers for education about zoological and ecological issues. Find and describe **two (2)** specific examples of ways that the Zoo aids in the public understanding of animals and ecosystems OTHER THAN simple plaques with printed information.

1. They people handing out infographics and explaining things about the birds
2. Wallpaper in the birdhouse Aidee in visualizing their natural environment

### **ANIMAL MENTAL/EMOTIONAL WELFARE**

Let's face it: zoo animals are kept in captivity, and for many animals this is a potentially traumatic experience. These animals evolved in the wild, and their behaviors are adapted to living in the more complex (and simply BIGGER) world outside.

In the old days the mental or emotional welfare of the exhibit animals weren't of primary concern: just stick them in a cage for all to see. But this attitude has changed.

Find at least **two (2)** specific examples where either the physical setting or objects in their environment have been added to provide a more interesting or comfortable place for the animals.

1. Ropes are put in some exhibits for animals to climb on
2. Colorful balls for the animals to play with