



World Animal Collection – Jungle

Here's What You Get!

- 10 Jungle Animals (elephant, lion, tiger, giraffe, cheetah, zebra, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, crocodile, snake)
- 1 Water Hole
- 2 Trees, 3 Bushes, 4 Small Plants
- 11 Rocks
- Teacher's Activity Guide

Introduction

Pretend and dramatic play build skills in many essential developmental areas. Through play, children actively experiment with social and emotional roles, build self-esteem, nurture their imaginations, and develop language skills. Playing with realistic molded animals encourages children to talk, interact, cooperate, and create stories as they expand their understanding of the world.

The molded animals and accessories are rich with realistic detail that invite imaginative play. The World Animal Collection – Jungle set addresses these Head Start Learning Outcomes and ECERS Guidelines:

Head Start Learning Objectives

APPROACHES TO LEARNING

Goal P-ATL 11: Child shows interest in and curiosity about the world around them.

Goal P-ATL 13: Child uses imagination in play and interactions with others.

COGNITION

Goal IT-C 13: Child uses pretend play to increase understanding of culture, environment, and experiences.

ECERS - Nature/Science

Goal 25.5.1: Nature/science activities (realistic toy animals)

Suggested Activities In the Jungle

When you introduce the World Animal Collection - Jungle set to the children, encourage them to identify each animal or accessory as you remove it from the jar. Prompt lively discussion by comparing and contrasting, sharing information, and asking appropriate questions. For example:

How is the elephant different from the lion? How is the zebra different from the cheetah?

Why is the Water Hole important? The water hole gives the animals fresh water to drink. Some animals – like the crocodile – might live in the water hole.

Why are trees important? The jungle can be very hot. Trees provide cool shade. Some animals – like the snake – might live in trees. Some animals – like the elephant – might eat leaves from the trees.

Invite the children to set up the Water Hole, trees, and rocks to create their own jungle and move the animals from place to place. Encourage the children to add elements from the block area or draw pictures to enhance their jungle scene.

World Animal Collection – Jungle (continued)**Suggested Activities** (continued)**Who's at the Water Hole?**

Set up a jungle scene so that all the animals are visible. Place the Water Hole so that it is completely hidden by rocks and trees or another easy to remove barrier. Ask the children to close their eyes. Take one animal and place it at the Water Hole. Have the children open their eyes. Can they identify the missing animal? Add a challenge by having two or more animals visit the Water Hole. This simple memory game helps children organize and store information, enhances self-confidence and self-awareness, and fosters development of communication and social skills – and it's a lot of fun to figure out who's visiting the Water Hole!



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