

Paper Plate Zoo

Turn simple paper plates into colorful wild animals using paint, paper, and imagination!

What You'll Need

• Paper plates	• Washable paint or crayons/markers
• Colored construction paper or cardstock	• Child-safe scissors
• Glue stick or school glue	• Pencil
• Googly eyes (optional)	

How to Make Your Zoo Animal

- 1. Pick an animal.** Choose a favorite zoo animal such as a lion, frog, tiger, bear, monkey, elephant, or giraffe.
- 2. Color the plate.** Paint or color the front of the paper plate to match your animal. Let paint dry before adding paper pieces.
- 3. Make the features.** Draw ears, noses, horns, manes, spots, stripes, or other features on colored paper. Have an adult help with cutting when needed.
- 4. Build the face.** Glue the paper pieces onto the plate. Add drawn eyes or googly eyes, then add a mouth and any extra details.
- 5. Give it personality!** Add silly eyebrows, freckles, a bow, glasses, or another creative detail. Your animal does not have to look exactly like a real one.
- 6. Create a whole zoo.** Make several animals and display them together. You can even label each animal and practice saying or spelling its name.

Super Scholar Challenge

Can you name the animal's habitat, favorite food, and one fun fact about it?

Animal Learning Prompts

Use these questions to turn craft time into a mini learning adventure.

- **Observe:** What colors, shapes, patterns, and body parts do you notice on your animal?
- **Compare:** How is your animal different from another zoo animal?
- **Count:** How many spots, stripes, teeth, whiskers, or other features did you add?
- **Read & Spell:** Write the animal's name. What sound does the first letter make?
- **Science:** Is your animal a mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, or fish?
- **Habitat:** Would it live in a forest, grassland, jungle, desert, water, or somewhere else?
- **Imagine:** If your animal could talk, what would it say?

Make a Mini Zoo Display

Place your finished plate animals on a wall, poster board, or table. Make a small name card for each animal. Add a habitat drawing behind it and include one fact you learned.

Grown-Up Notes

Supervise cutting and gluing based on your child's age. Washable, non-toxic craft supplies are recommended. Small items such as googly eyes can be a choking hazard for young children, so substitute drawn paper eyes when appropriate.

Bonus idea: Let your child invent a brand-new animal by combining features from two or three real animals. Give the new creature a name and describe where it lives.

Create • Learn • Imagine

Super Scholars