

**2020 Docent Training Class Outline – DRAFT (subject to change)**  
**Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> - April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – 9:00am-3:00pm**

**Class 1 Sunday, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020:**

Introductions

The History & Roles of Zoos (01.ZooHistory)

Ecology Overview (02.Ecology)

Role of Conservation at the Zoo (03.Conservation) -Jessie Bushell, Director of Conservation

Biofacts: *Skull comparisons, confiscated biofacts*

Tour Playground & Sculpture Garden

At home: Review- 01.ZooHistory, 02.Ecology, 03.Conservation, Read- 04.Taxonomy, 19.BiofactsSkulls (slides 1-8)

Complete: skulls#1 worksheet, Habitat worksheet

**Class 2 - Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020:**

Wellness & Enrichment – Debbie Marrin, Director of Training & Animal Behavior

Zoo Veterinary Hospital (TOUR) –Dr. Sean Brady, Zoo Veterinarian

Commissary Tour

*\*\*Possible scavenger hunt*

Biofacts: Enrichment, Bears, Anteater, *Tropical (sloth)*

At home: 05.Theory of Evolution, 06.Origins of Life, 07.Zoogeography, 08.Invertebrates

Complete: Biodiversity worksheet

**Class 3 - Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020:**

Vertebrates vs. Invertebrates

Arthropods characteristics and the Zoo's collection - Patrick Schlemmer, Curator of Invertebrates & Special Projects

Children's Zoo and Animal Resource Center (ARC) tours - Amy Phelps, Curator of Children's Zoo & Tracy Nappi, Asst. Curator of ARC

*Biofacts: Meerkat & Prairie Dogs, Arthropods, red panda,*

At home: 09.Amphibian, 10.Reptiles, 19.BiofactsSkulls (slide 11-12), 21.Interpretation

Complete: Endangered species worksheet

**Class 4 – Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020:**

Amphibian & Reptilian characteristics and the Zoo's collection – Dominick Dorsa

Interpretation Skills – Docents Sandy

Talking about climate change – Blair Bazdarich, Education Program Specialist

*Biofacts: Tropical building (reptiles & amphibians)*

At home: 11.Birds

**Class 5 – Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020:**

Bird characteristics and the zoo's collection - Dominick Dorsa, Curator of Birds

Class's Bird Order presentations (2-3 minutes)

*Biofacts: Penguins, Flamingo, Tropical (birds)*

At home: 12.Mammals, 13.MammalsNonPlacental, 14.MammalsPlacental (slides 11-20), 19.BiofactSkulls (slides 1-11, 17-19)

**Class 6 – Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020:**

Mammal Characteristics

Hoofstock & Marsupial characteristics and the Zoo's collection - Sarah King, Asst Curator of Hoofstock

Class's Hoofstock or Marsupial presentations (2-3 minutes)

*Biofacts: Koala, Giraffe, Hippo, Rhino*

At home: 14.MammalsPlacental (slides 1-10), 20.BiofactPelts

**Class 7 - Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020:**

Carnivore characteristics and the Zoo's collection - Ashleigh Lutz-Nelson, Asst. Curator of Carnivores

Class's Carnivore presentations (2-3 minutes)

*Biofacts: Feline, Sea lion, Wolf, Wolverine*

At home: 15.Primates, 19.BiofactsSkulls (slides 13-15)

**Class 8 – Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020:**

Primate Order characteristics and the Zoo's collection-Joe Knobbe, Curator of Primates

*Biofacts: Lemurs, Monkeys, Apes*

Class's Primate presentations (2-3 minutes)

At home: 17.Plants, 18.InteractionPlants&Animals, Interpretation worksheet, Plant worksheet

**Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> DOCENT GENERAL MEETING, 10:00am-12noon in Great Hall. All students are invited.**

**Class 9 – Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020:**

Fun with biofacts

Plants - Greg McCoy, Horticulture Supervisor

At home: 16.AnimalBehavior, 22.ZooDocents,

**Class 10 - Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020:**

Final Presentations

Review

Safety & Radio Protocol

Docent Guidelines & Policy

**No Class – April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (Easter):**

**Class 11 – April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020:**

**Final Knowledge Test!**

**GRADUATION: Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

## Spring 2020 Docent Training Class: Resource Guide

Throughout the course of this training, you will need to research animal information. Here are a few trusted resources and tips on using the internet for researching animal info.

**Digital Docent Notebook:** <http://sfzoodocents.org/notebook/> (See Figure A)

The Digital Docent Notebook reinforces the slides and includes:

- Biofact Guidelines and Talking points
- Fact sheets on all of the Zoo's animals
- Docent Guidelines & Protocols
- Sculpture Learning Plaza Guides
- Study Guides (Birds, Amphibians, Arthropods, Biofacts, Botany, Conservation Corner, Enrichment/Wellness, Fish, Mammal, Reptile, Zoo History, Zoology) these supplement the training slides. Also included is a glossary of some of the terms used.
- Detailed Tour Guidelines for the most common tours led by Docents
- TrainingContinuingEd are some videos of past CE that are interesting at a later point.
- TrainingNewDocents – all the materials needed for this class

**New Docent Training Materials:** The docent training slides, homework assignments and worksheets can be accessed at: <http://sfzoodocents.org/notebook/TrainingNewDocentsSlides/> (See Figure B)

- Weekly Assignments
- Training Files # 01-22 (zoo history, conservation, ecology, theory of evolution, taxonomy, origins of life, zoogeography, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals (placental, nonplacental & primates), animal behavior, plants, biofacts, & guidelines for interpretation and for being a docent)
- Current Zoo Collection Animals slides (See Figure C)
- Keeper Presentations

**San Francisco Zoo's website:** [www.sfzoo.org](http://www.sfzoo.org)

The Zoo's website can supplement the animal fact sheets and give more information on the exhibits. Website includes:

- Animal information
- Exhibit descriptions
- General information like fees and hours
- A list of the Zoo's conservation partners and initiatives
- Zoo history and Veterinary Care (in the About the Zoo section at the bottom of the webpage)

**Other animal information websites:**

<http://www.arkive.org/>

<http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/>

<http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

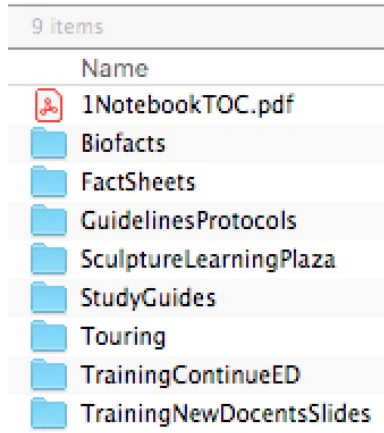
**Interpreting Climate Change:** <http://climateinterpreter.org/>

**Association of Zoos and Aquariums website:** [www.aza.org](http://www.aza.org)

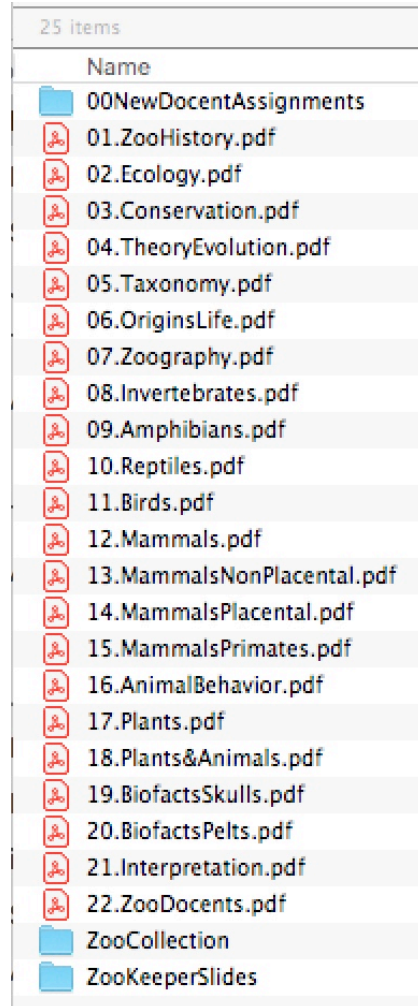
### Tips for using Internet

- Not all websites are created equal! Wikipedia, a popular online encyclopedia, has content that is user-generated, meaning you or I could post information. If you do use Wikipedia, make sure you cross-check your facts with information from a trusted science-based website run by an accredited organization
- In general, it is always good to cross-reference to make sure that the facts you pull from one source are consistent with others
- You might also seek out information from Zoo staff. Please make sure that information that is shared with you from animal care staff is cleared through Stella or another Education Staff member. Occasionally fun anecdotal stories are not appropriate to share with Zoo guests
- The education department has a library that is also available for your use. Please ask Stella to let you in. You are not able to check books out. You must keep the books in the library.

**Figure A:** screen when you first sign into sfzoodocents.org/notebook. Everything you need for the class is in TrainingNewDocetsSlides Folder



**Figure B:** TrainingNewDocentsSlides Folder – All homework, worksheets and quiz answers are in 00NewDocentAssignments



**Figure C:** Inside ZooCollection Folder are the slides of Zoo animals. You can print them out and bring them to class to take notes next to animal

