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Smithsonian National Zoo post-trip assignment

Answer the following questions by typing your answer in the space provided. Upload this document to ELMS in the Post-trip Assignment section before Friday 10/5 at 5:00pm.

1. What animal was the main reason the Smithsonian National Zoo was founded? Explain why.

2. Give two examples of how the Zoo works to improve the wellbeing of the animals they work with.

3. Protecting vulnerable and endangered species is a critical mission for the Zoo. What is the importance of protecting and improving species populations? Think of the multiple perspectives that may benefit (humans, ecosystem, etc.).

4. The Elephant Trails building is LEED Gold-certified, meaning it fits certain criteria to incorporate energy efficient technologies and sustainable materials. Some of this includes geothermal wells, operable skylights with retractable shades, using recycled steel, and so on. Explain how conservation and sustainability can mutually benefit each other.

5. Habitat loss is one of the greatest challenges to conservation. Aside from the work of the zoos in protecting species, what are some other ways that can help reduce habitat loss?

6. Read of this article: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/illegal-wildlife-trade>. Illegal wildlife trade is a massive problem that still exists today. What are some of the implications that arise from illegal wildlife trade and think of some ways Zoos help combat it.

SOPHOMORES ONLY

1. We saw the lemurs as one of our last stops at the Zoo. Over 100 species of lemur are all under the “vulnerable” species status. Madagascar, home to lemurs, is one of the poorest nations in the world, where over 70% of its population lives on less than $1USD a day. These two things are not unlinked. In 350 words, describe how poverty can negatively affect the conservation of a specie’s like the lemur and think of some alternatives that can address it (hint: think of the SDGs).