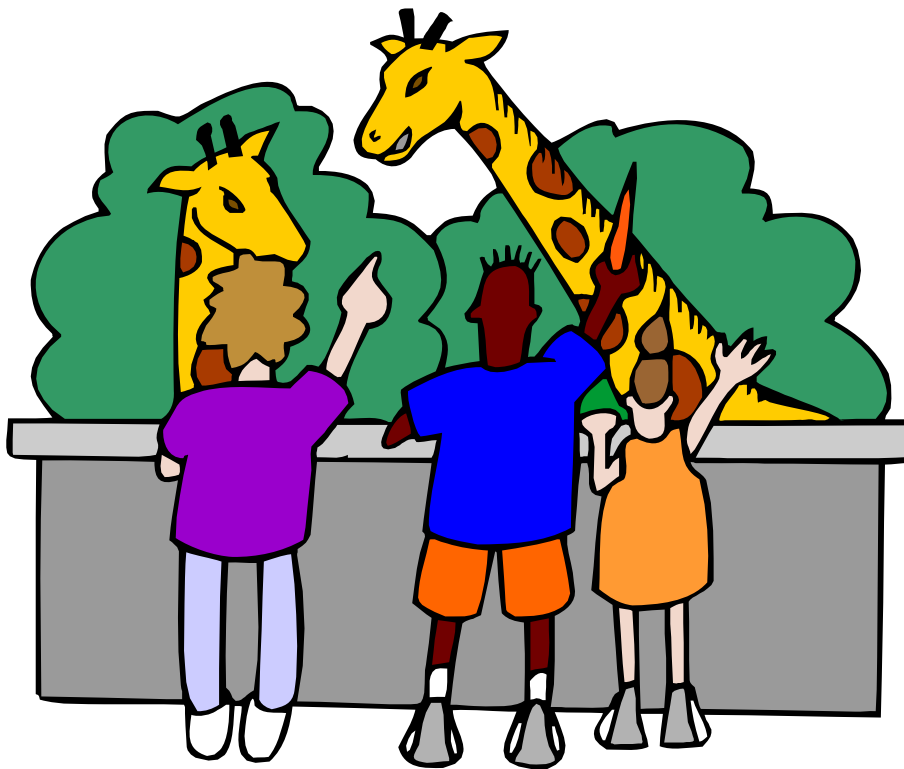


Have you ever gone on a safari?
Have you ever been to the zoo?
If your legs are strong and your eyes are sharp ...
You and your family are about to embark ...
On a special safari, filled with learning and fun ...
Designed to challenge everyone!



Grandparents for Social Action

A Trip to the ZOO!

Adapted from Into The Ark: An Interactive Family Zoo Program
Created by Hana Berman and Lonna Picker, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Each of us is concerned about our world. We want to do what we can to make it a better place to live.

In continuing to build upon the ideas of caring and sharing, we need to raise our level of consciousness in yet another area — that of compassion to animals, *tza'ar ba'alei chayim*.

The Talmud tells us that “God has compassion on anyone who has compassion upon his fellow creatures.” It is amazing how we can find the answers to so many contemporary concerns in our Torah.

In Biblical times people were familiar with the world around them. Animals were an essential; people needed their help to survive. Times have changed. The world we live in is so different from the Biblical world.

Close your eyes for a minute, and imagine yourself living a few thousand years ago.

How would animals be a part of your life?
How are animals a part of your life today?

As our modern society has developed, we have forgotten how much we really need our animal friends. From ancient times through the industrial revolution people understood their dependence on animals. With the passing of time priorities have changed; we have become less dependent on animals. Many people do not have much contact with animals.

As we look around the world today, we find many groups that are concerned with the health and welfare of animals. People are relearning how to live with the animal world, and are recognizing the important role that it plays in our lives.

Jewish tradition can help us appreciate the animal world and its important role in our own lives and the lives of others. When the Book of Genesis uses the term *nefesh chayah* (a living being), it refers to animals as well as humans. The similarity of expression tells us that animals have a worth near to that of people.

Additional references to the treatment of animals abound in our Jewish sources. The Talmud tells us that, “God has compassion on anyone who has compassion on his fellow creatures.”

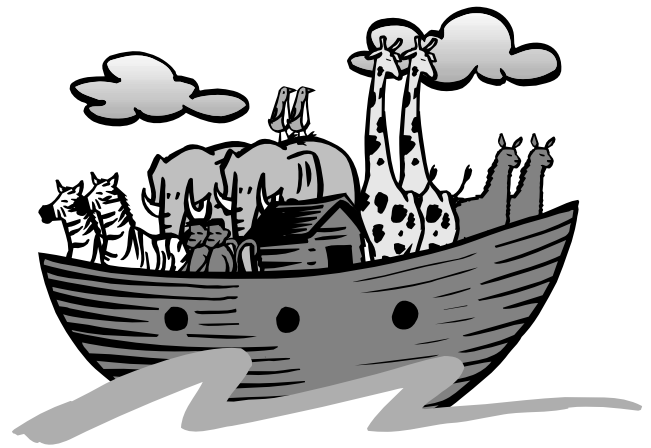
In the Book of Proverbs, we read that, “The righteous person is concerned for the life of his beast.”

In the book of Exodus, we learn that both humans and animals are required to rest on Shabbat.

Many of our Biblical heroes and heroines were chosen as leaders of their people because of the kindnesses they showed to the animals in their care.

God chose Moses and David as leaders because of their compassion to animals. (Exodus Rabbah 2:2)

Rebecca was chosen as Isaac's wife



because of the kindness she showed to animals. (Genesis 24:11-20)

Jacob also demonstrated concern for animals. (Genesis 33: 12-14)

We should take great pride in the sensitivity of our Jewish sources. While times have certainly changed and we recognize the differences in our modern world, we are continually looking to our texts and tradition to help us live Jewishly.

Tza'ar Ba'alei Chayim, compassion to animals, is one of our *mitzvot*, acts that God expects of us. It should be an important part of our way of life, so that we can make our world one in which all living beings can live in peace, harmony, and security.

“Whose confidence is a thread of gossamer, whose trust is a spider’s web.” (Job 8:14)

As you visit the zoo today think about the mitzvah of compassion to animals.

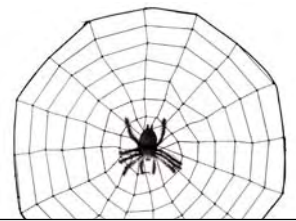
Tza'ar Ba'alei Chayim

ENJOY YOUR DAY AT THE ZOO!

What Good Are They Anyway?

Mosquitoes ... lizards ... centipedes ... snakes. How often do we ask what the purpose of some of these creatures could possibly be? Especially members of the insect, amphibian, or reptile world!

Just like you, King David found it hard to imagine the spider’s purpose until something special happened ...



Spider - *Eikavish*

The Web and the Bite

One day before he became King of Israel, David sat in his garden and saw a wasp swallow a spider. David wondered at this act and said to the Holy One, Blessed Be He: “Creator of the Universe, for what reason did you create these creatures when you made the world? The wasp gives no honey, and she is ugly to look at. The spider weaves her web all day, but we can make no garments out of her cobwebs.”

God answered him: “David, you must not mock or ridicule any of My creatures. A time will come when you yourself will recognize that each one has a place and a use.”

Not long afterwards, King Saul grew angry at his former favorite, David, and he went after him with his army, intending to capture David and kill him. David fled and hid in a dark cave. As David was lying in fear within the cave, God sent a spider to the narrow opening of the mouth of the cave. There the spider spun a thick web which covered the entire outside opening.

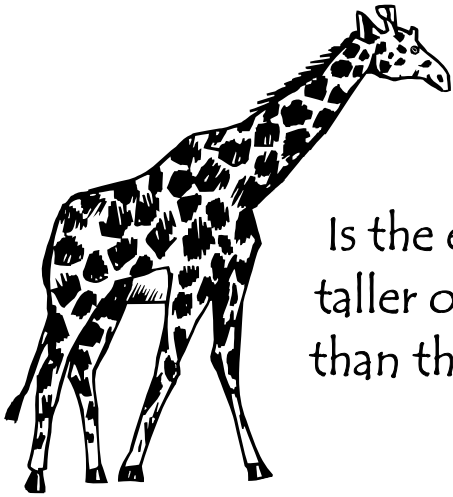
Saul and his men were searching for David in that very same area, and they suspected that David might be lying hidden in that cave. When Saul saw the spiderweb covering the opening of the cave, David heard him say to his men: “David cannot be in there. If David had entered this cave he would have torn the spiderweb to tatters. Let’s hurry and search somewhere else, for he is surely nearby.” So he and his soldiers went searching elsewhere, and David breathed easily again.

When Saul was safely gone, David crept out of the cave, caressing the little spider. David said to the spider, “Blessed are you, and blessed be your Maker.”

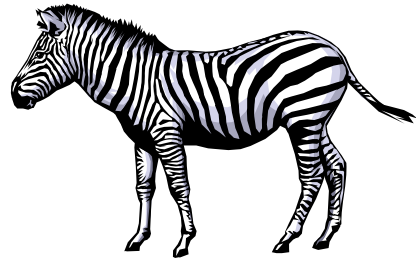


Look at the Elephant in the Zoo.

Look at the Pictures on this Page.



Is the elephant taller or shorter than the giraffe?



Is the elephant fatter or thinner than the zebra?



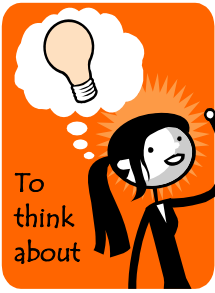
Does the elephant need a bigger or smaller house than an owl?



Are the elephant's ears bigger or smaller than the rabbit's?



Is the elephant's nose longer or shorter than the penguin's?



Spider silk is an amazing product. It is so flexible and strong that it can stretch without breaking when an insect is trapped in it. People have tried to make clothing with it, as they do with silk from silkworms. It didn't work.

Can you guess why?

They needed thousands of spiders to make the silk. The problem was, the spiders kept eating each other!

Write your poem here:

We Need Animals!

What do you think the world would be like if there were no insects, amphibians, or reptiles? Write a 5-line poem about these animals, called a Cinquain, using the following format:

Line 1 - Name of the animal

Line 2 - 2 words describing the animal

Line 3 - 3 words telling what the animal does

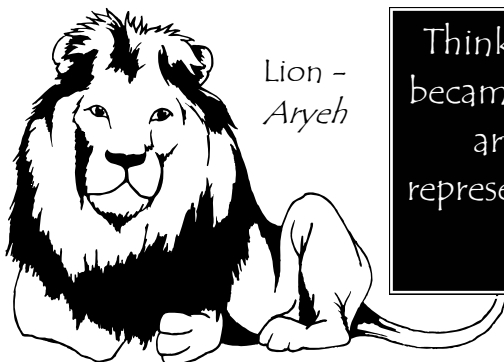
Line 4 - In 4 words: what the world would be like without this animal

Line 5 - Repeat line 1 or use a synonym

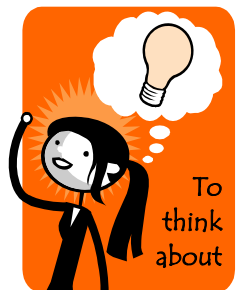
"The wicked flee though no one gives chase, but the righteous are as confident as the lion." (Proverbs 28:1)

When you look at the lion, what do you think about? Do you think about his ferocious nature? Perhaps you remember that people often refer to the lion as the "king of the jungle." Or maybe you picture the symbol of the lion as it was used on the coats-of-arms of the nobility of Europe.

Our Jewish religion combines these ideas when it uses the lion as a symbol. In the Bible, God is often likened to a lion because of its strong and confident nature. The tribe of Judah was likened to a lion which is a symbol of kingship, because from this tribe would come the future kings of Israel. Often the curtain which covers the *Aron haKodesh* (Holy Ark) uses the symbol of the lion.



Think about how the qualities of the lion became a symbol which was used by Jewish artists throughout the centuries to represent God, the tribe of Judah, and even the Jewish people.



Don't Hurt a Bird That You're Trying to Help!

If you set out pieces of yarn and string for birds to use as nesting material in the spring, make sure they are not more than six inches long. Longer pieces can get tangled around the birds and hurt them.



Please pick up glass, wire, nails, cans, and other trash that could hurt pets or wildlife.

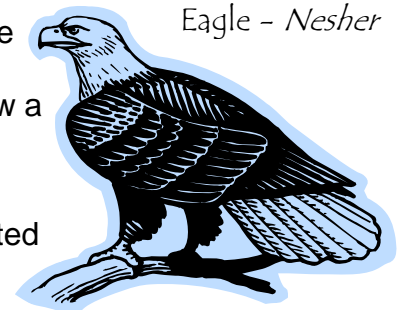


Archaeologists studying sites in the Sinai Desert uncovered rock drawings of animals. In ancient times rocks were often used as we use paper and canvas today.

Before you and your family arrived today you were asked to bring a rock along with you. Use your rock to create a family symbol. Think about your own family. What special qualities does your family have? What animal might symbolize those qualities? Paint this animal on your stone with other decorations to create your own family “coat-of-arms.”

There is an interesting story of how the eagle was chosen as the national emblem of the United States. When originally suggested, Ben Franklin said, “Absolutely not!” He questioned how a bird that steals food from other birds could possibly represent our country. He suggested the turkey instead!

Luckily, most people felt that because the eagle is usually associated with strength and pride, it was the appropriate choice.



The eagle has often been a symbol of confidence and power.

The Bible tells us: “Saul and Jonathan beloved and cherished! Never parted in life or in death! They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.” (2 Samuel, 1:23)

In the Bible, the eagle appears many times. It often represents God’s power and strength.

One of the ways that the Bible expresses ideas is by metaphor. A metaphor helps us to understand one idea by using another.

Biblical metaphors are found throughout our prayerbook.

Before the *Amidah* we sing:

ROCK of Israel - *Tsur Yisrael*

Rock is used as a metaphor for God (as an indication of strength).

When we return the Torah scroll to the Ark we sing:

It is a TREE of Life - *Etz Chayim Hee*

The Torah is likened to a tree of life (its many roots and branches spreading wisdom and knowledge)

“You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Me.” (Exodus 19: 4)

Observe the eagle. Think about its attributes, appearance and characteristics.

Watch the eagle. What does it do? How does it act?

Sometimes, when we talk about people, we describe them by using names of animals.

We say: Fast as an eagle
 Strong as a lion.

Have your grandparents help you, and see if you can complete these sentences, using the names of animals.

Here are some examples:

Quiet as a mouse.



Slow as a turtle.



Now it's your turn. Have fun!

Beautiful as a _____.

Fuzzy as a _____.

Friendly as a _____.

Wiggly as a _____.

Fat as a _____.

Noisy as a _____.

Happy as a _____.

Tall as a _____.

“For you, my flock, flock that I tend, are men: And I am your God - declares the Lord God.” (Ezekiel 34: 31)



Sheep - Tson

The sheep is mentioned over 750 times in the Bible. The fact that its name is found there more times than any other animal's teaches us a lot about Biblical society.

Many of our early ancestors lived as nomads. They travelled from place to place, following their sheep as they grazed. It is not surprising that so many early leaders of Israel were shepherds.

The sheep was used in many ways. It was offered up on the altar as a sacrifice; its meat and milk were eaten; its wool was woven; and its horn was made into a *shofar*. In Biblical times practically all clothing was made from sheep's wool.

Our society today is quite different! We live in the modern world. We have homes in established neighborhoods, we drive automobiles, and much of our clothing is manufactured. Fabrics used today may be wool, but due to the high cost, and many fabric choices, 100% wool clothes are not that usual.

Although times have changed — there is one very important thing that has not changed — the sheep! The sheep was a kosher animal in Biblical days, and it is a kosher animal today.

The elephant is not mentioned in the Bible, but there are many references to its tusk (ivory). “From ivory palaces, lutes entertain you.” (Psalms 45: 9) The Hebrew word for ivory is *shenhav*.

On either side of an elephant's trunk are long curved teeth made of ivory. These are called tusks. Just as our baby teeth fall out and are replaced by adult teeth, so, too, with the elephant's tusks. An elephant's baby tusks fall out when the elephant is about two years old.

As long as the elephant lives, its tusks will grow — sometimes as long as eight to ten feet. For many years people killed elephants for their tusks, which were then mounted as decorations or made into items like jewelry, statues, and piano keys. Today most elephants live on government reserves where there are laws protecting them from hunters. And, luckily for elephants, piano keys are now made of plastic!

The elephant's tusk is valuable. In Biblical times, it was carved with ornaments and art objects and used in making furniture. King Solomon “made a great ivory throne” (1 Kings 10:18). Ahab, another King of Israel, built “the ivory house” (1 Kings 22: 39).

- Some people say elephants never forget!
- Elephants share many human emotions — members of a herd are like a family. They stroke each other or touch trunks in greeting. Mothers pat and hug their babies. Elephants display both joy and sadness.

One of the sad things about elephants is that they are an endangered species.

Many of the animals in our world are in danger. They are in danger because of people.

- People destroy their homes.
- People poison them.
- People hunt them.
- People collect them.

An endangered species is any kind of animal, plant, or other living thing that will soon become extinct if nothing is done to save it.



Elephant
- Piel

The More You Know About Animals, the Better Friend You Can Be To Them

“The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard lie down with the kid; the calf, the beast of prey and the fatling together, with a little child to herd them.” (Isaiah 11: 6)

During the Biblical period the wolf was very common in Israel. It is described as a fierce and bloodthirsty animal. The wolf was an animal feared by the settlers of America, and was hunted to near extinction.

Scientists who have studied animal behavior tell us that wolves' reputation for fierceness is greatly exaggerated. Wolves spend their lives in extended family groups. They have rules governing behavior which are instinctively known and followed by all. Thus each member knows his own place and how to act toward every other wolf in the pack.

The more we know about animals, the more we can appreciate their needs and come to understand, rather than fear them.



Wolf - Ze'ev

At the wolf lair, observe the wolf and his habitat (the environment in which a living creature can find all its needs to survive). Look at the following list of the animal's basic needs and tell how the Zoo has provided for each of these needs:

1. FOOD
2. WATER
3. SHELTER
4. PROTECTION FROM PREDATORS
5. SOCIAL GROUPING



The Book of Genesis (1:21) uses the term *nefesh chayah*, a living being, to refer to animals as well as to humans.

We share our future with the animal world. In order to assure a safe and healthy future for all living creatures, people need to change.

People ARE changing!

We are more aware of the role of the environment in our lives.

We are more sensitive to the needs of animals.

Each of us can do more.

Here are a few suggestions of how you can make *tsa'ar ba'alei chayim* an important part of your life ...

Be a responsible pet owner:

- Make sure that you meet the needs of your pet — for food, shelter, health care, and love
- Spay or neuter your pet

Show consideration for all animals:

- Pick up litter, so that animals don't get hurt.
- If you see an injured animal, call the proper authorities, such as the Humane Society. (Do not try to help it yourself.)

Volunteer some time:

- At a local animal shelter.

Join an organization:

- The Nature Conservancy
- The Audubon Society
- CHAI - Concern for Helping Animals in Israel
- ASPNI - American Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel

Learn more about what you can do:

- Join Kids for Saving the Earth (KSE), P.O. Box 47247, Plymouth, MN 55447 (They will help you start your own environmental club.)

Click on a link:

- Make theanimalrescuesite.com your home page and click every day to provide food for homeless animals. It's free!

Animals have lots of things to say.
They talk to each other every day.

Birds chirp and tweet,
As they sing to you.
Dogs bark,
Cows moo,
Cats meow
And roosters cock-a-doodle-doo!

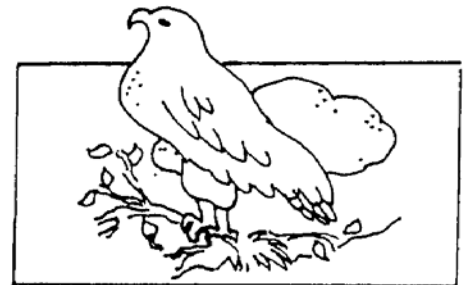
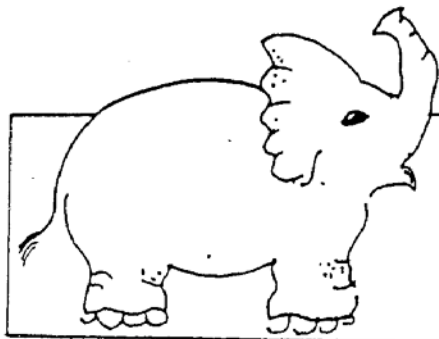
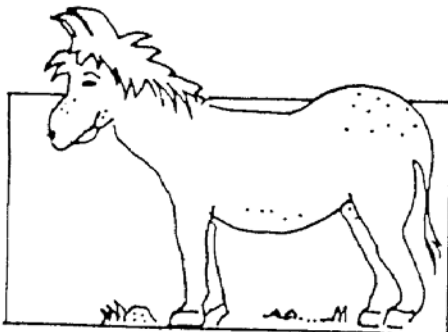
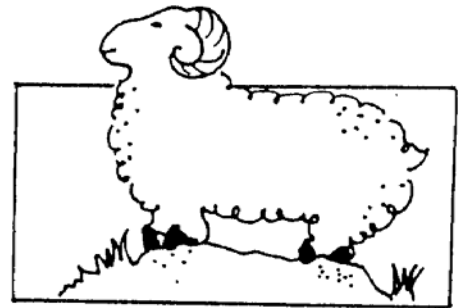
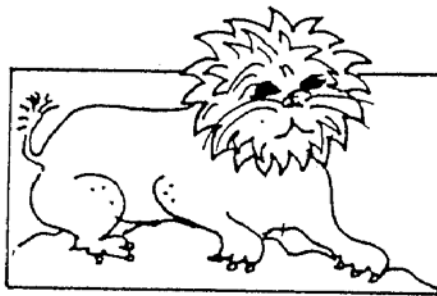
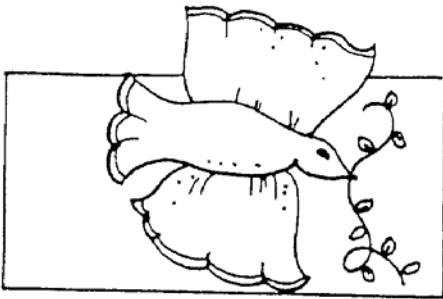
Camels hiss,
Pigs grunt,
Horses neigh
And every animal wants to say ...

Shalom and welcome to our zoo!
Now that I said hello, talk to me, too!

FINGER PUPPETS

To make PUPPETS...

Tape flaps onto
a cylinder that
fits around
the finger.



We have to remember to be responsible towards the animals who share our world with us — pets and wild animals alike.

It's your turn to get involved!

As you walk around the Zoo today, think about —
How you can be more responsible towards the animals, and other visitors —
How the Zoo can be more responsible —
How others can be more responsible.

Issues to consider are:

- Do the animals appear to have enough space?
- Is there appropriate shelter for the animals?
- Does the exhibit look easy to clean? Is it clean?
- Are the visitors respecting the rules set by the Zoo?

Complete your task, in partnership with the Zoo. Thanks for being so responsible!

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