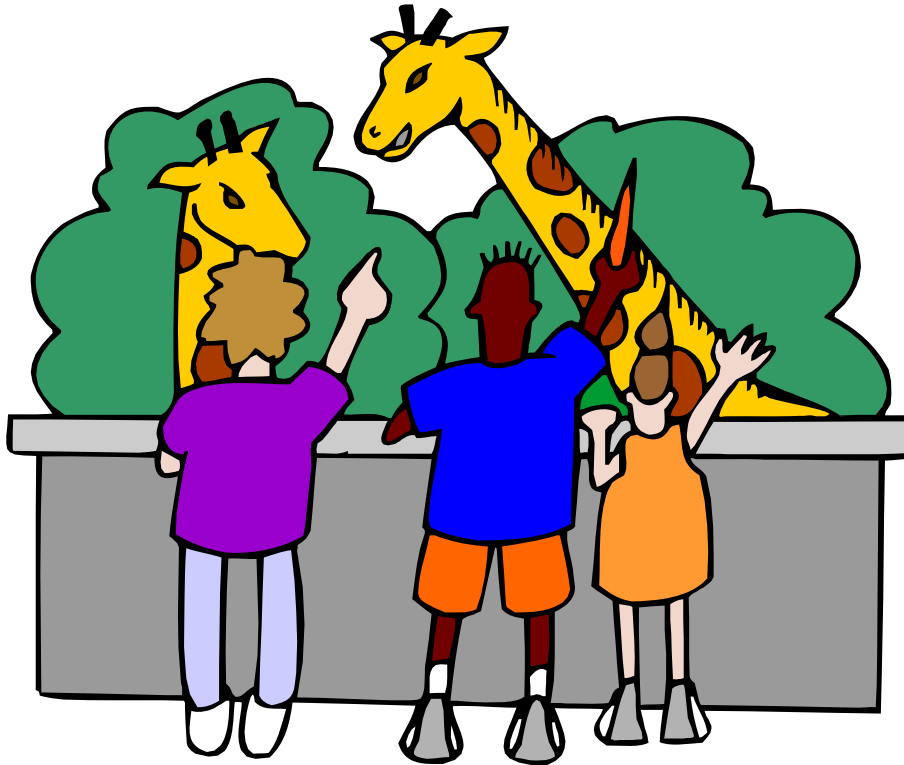


Our tradition says to be kind to animals.
Being kind to animals teaches us to be kind
to each other ...

Let's learn how to be kind to animals!



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.

I n 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?

T*za'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.

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!

Jewish tradition can help us appreciate the animal world and its important role in our own lives and the lives of others. The Talmud tells us that, “God has compassion on anyone who has compassion on his fellow creatures.”

1. In the Book of Proverbs, we read that, “The righteous person is concerned for the life of his beast.”
2. In the book of Exodus, we learn that both humans and animals are required to rest on Shabbat.
3. 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.
4. God chose Moses and David as leaders because of their compassion to animals. (Exodus Rabbah 2:2)
5. Rebecca was chosen as Isaac’s wife because of the kindness she showed to animals. (Genesis 24:11-20)
6. 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.



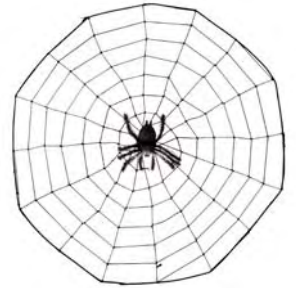


"Whose confidence is a thread of gossamer, whose trust is a spider's web." (Job 8:14)

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 ...



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."

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!

Lion



7

“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.



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.

Eagle



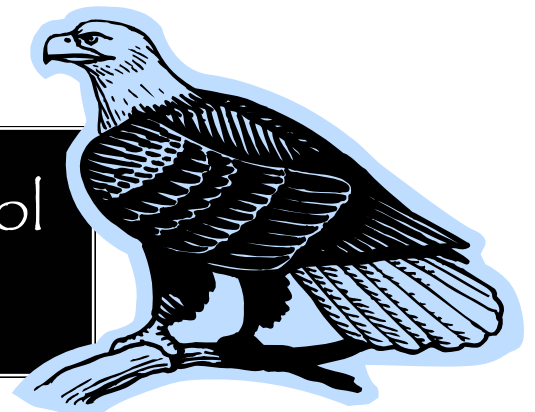
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The Bible tells us: “Saul and Jonathan were beloved and cherished! ... They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.” (2 Samuel, 1:23)

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

“... I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Me.” (Exodus 19: 4)

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



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



Sheep 15

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

It is the dream of our people that all humans and all animals will someday be friends!

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



Wolf 9

has provided for each of these needs:

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



The elephant is not mentioned in the Bible, but there are many references to its tusks (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.

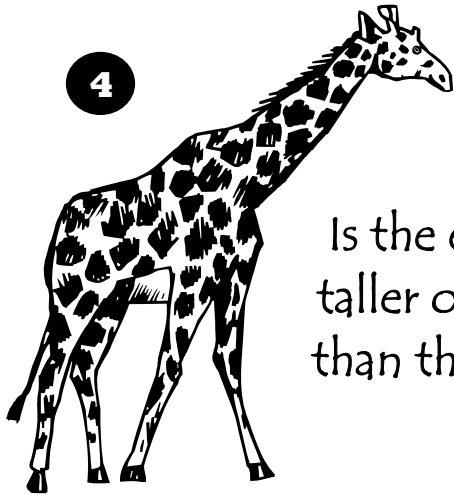
- Some people say elephants never forget!
- Elephants share many human emotions — members of a herd are like a family. They stroke each other or touch trunks in greeting. Mothers pat and hug their babies. Elephants display both joy and sadness.



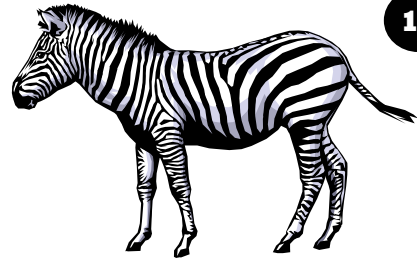
Elephant 4

Take a good look at the elephant! Then ...

... 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?

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

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

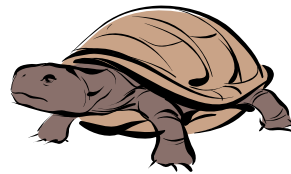
Have your grandparents help you, and see if you can complete these sentences, using the names of animals.

Here are some examples:

Quiet as a mouse.



Slow as a turtle.



Now it's your turn. Maybe you'll find the animals to fill in the blanks as you walk around the Zoo! Have fun!

Beautiful as a _____.

Fuzzy as a _____.

Friendly as a _____.

Wiggly as a _____.

Brave as a _____.

Noisy as a _____.

Happy as a _____.

Tall as a _____.

Fast as a _____.

Each of us can do more! The more you know about animals, the better friend you can be to them.

Be aware!

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.

We are more aware of the role of the environment in our lives. We are more sensitive to the needs of animals.



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.

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!

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?
- Are there ways to give tzedakah at the zoo? (A box or fountain where people give donations? An animal adoption program that let's you sponsor a zoo animal?)

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

Would you like to be further involved with Grandparents for Social Action, and be notified of upcoming events? Please contact us!

Grandparents for Social Action

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