Zoo

Design Intent

Walk into the *Zoo* where it isn't just ok to monkey around, it is encouraged. Wander the wilds and connect with critters from faraway lands. Gather 'round a giant gorilla to hear tales about tails. Find your inner beast while visiting with penguins from the polar cap or leap into adventure alongside a leopard in the rainforest. Peer through a portal and get a peek at landscapes filled with life of all kinds and colors. Bring the outdoors to life with the sights, sounds, and even scents of the animal kingdom. Take a minute to walk in another creature's footsteps and let your imagination run wild.

Technology Components

N/A

Mural Features

- Bengal Tiger-The Bengal tiger, the largest of all big cat species, is easily identified by its orange coat and bold black stripes. Each tiger has a unique stripe pattern, and adult tigers have distinctive white spots of fur on the backs of their ears. The Bengal tiger is native to the forests and grasslands of India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan.
- Elephant-Elephants are the largest land mammals on earth, characterized by their long trunk, columnar legs, and large head with wide, flat ears. Elephants are found most often in savannas, grasslands, and forests in tropical and subtropical regions of Africa and Asia. The African bush elephant is larger than both the Asian and African forest elephant. Elephants are herbivores and eat grasses, fruit, and roots.
- Polar Bear-Polar bears are the largest bear in the world and the Arctic's top predator. They primarily eat seals and spend 50% of their time hunting. Polar bears roam the Arctic ice sheets across long distances and use their large front paws to swim in coastal waters. The polar bear, with no natural predators, has no fear of humans.
- Rhinoceros-A Rhinoceros is a thick-skinned herbivore known for its massive body and horns on its snout. Found in Africa and Asia, there are five species of rhinoceros. A Rhinoceros can weigh over a ton, yet they can run surprisingly fast. Despite their tough appearance, they are often solitary and gentle unless provoked.

Mural Features

- Crane-A crane is any of 15 species of tall wading birds. They generally have long necks, legs, and bills. Cranes are omnivores and eat a variety of plants and animals including seeds, berries, insects, reptiles, small mammals, and even other birds. They are powerful flyers and travel long distances and reach heights of up to 26,000 feet during migration.
- Red-tailed Hawk-The red-tailed hawk is the most widespread hawk species in North America. They can acclimate to a variety of biomes across their range, from the interior of Alaska to as far south as Panama but favors open fields with tall perches for hunting. Measuring 19-25 inches in length, the red-tailed hawk feeds on rabbits, squirrels, mice, birds, reptiles, and amphibians.
- Lion-Lions are native to Africa and India and are second in size only to the tiger. Lions are most active at night and live in a variety of habitats but prefer grassland, savanna, and open woodland. Lions are unique among cats in that they live in a group, or pride.
- Giraffe-Giraffe's are the tallest land animals, growing to heights of 18 feet or more. Despite their size, they are agile creatures, running up to 35 mph and have been known to jump as high as 6 feet. Typically found in savannas and woodlands, giraffes primarily feed on the leaves, fruits, and flowers of woody plants, especially acacia trees.
- Hippopotamus-Also known as the “river horse” the hippopotamus lives along the lakes and rivers throughout sub-Saharan Africa. The hippo is the third heaviest land animal, weighing up to 8,000 pounds. Hippos spend most of the day in the water and at night, come ashore to eat grass and fruit.
- Hyena- The hyena is a highly adaptable carnivore found across Africa, known for its powerful build, strong jaws, and laughing calls. Living in clans, hyenas are skilled hunters and scavengers, capable of taking down large prey and consuming nearly every part of a carcass. They play a crucial role in maintaining ecosystem balance by controlling populations and cleaning up animal remains.

Themes to Explore

- Habitats
- Taxonomy: Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, Invertebrates, and Fish
- Conservation
- Captivity vs. Wild
- Earth
- Animal Tracks and Prints
- Animal Movement
- Animal Behavior

Mounted Animals/Artifacts

- Brown Bear- A brown bear is a large mammal with thick fur that ranges in color from light brown to dark chocolate. Found in forests, mountains, and tundras across North America, Europe, and Asia, these bears are skilled foragers and can weigh up to 1,500 pounds. They are omnivores, feeding on berries, fish, insects, and small mammals, and are known for their impressive strength and hibernation during winter.

M**ounted Animals/Artifacts**

- Zebra-A zebra is an African equine with a black-and-white striped coat. Zebras are native to the grasslands and savannas of Africa, live in herds, and rely on their senses and strong social bonds for protection. They are primarily grazers and eat a variety of vegetation. Their stripes may help camouflage, confuse predators, or aid in regulating body temperature.
- Leopard-The leopard is a powerful, big cat known for its golden coat covered in dark rosettes. Typically weighing between 60 to 200 pounds, leopards vary in size depending on their habitat, with males generally larger than females. They are carnivores and eat a wide variety of prey, including antelope, deer, birds, monkeys, and even fish. Leopards are solitary and stealthy hunters, often dragging their catch into trees to keep it safe from scavengers like hyenas.

To Find Out More

- World Wildlife Foundation: Educational Resources
- National Geographic Kids
- African Wildlife Foundation