

# History of Zoo Atlanta



Did you know that the Zoo is over 130 years old? It all started in 1889 when a circus ran out of money while it was traveling through town. A generous businessman named George Gress bought the animals and donated them to the City of Atlanta. At the time, Grant Park was a popular place for picnics and family outings, so what better place to build a zoo? Learn more about the Zoo's history by completing these activities as you explore today!

## EVERYWHERE

Some animals at the Zoo can live a very long time! Some of the longest living species at the Zoo are listed below. Check off the ones you see today, and don't be afraid to ask a Volunteer or Zoo team member how old they are!

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African elephant          | <input type="checkbox"/> Blue-throated macaw     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aldabra tortoise          | <input type="checkbox"/> Orangutan               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alligator snapping turtle | <input type="checkbox"/> Western lowland gorilla |

## ANYWHERE

Zoo Atlanta's Education Department offers all sorts of fun programs to help guests learn about the animals and how to help them. Our NightCrawler program even invites guests to spend the night at the Zoo! If you were on a NightCrawler, which animal would you want to observe at night? Why? What do you think you might see?

## AFRICAN SAVANNA – RHINO HABITAT

Throughout its history, the Zoo has focused on improving and expanding. The African Savanna is the newest addition to Zoo Atlanta's footprint. It opened in the summer of 2019 and features a new, expanded habitat for the elephants. Before it opened, the elephants lived in what is now the southern white rhinoceros habitat. How do you think the elephants moved from one space to another? Draw a comic of the elephants moving from their old home to their new habitat below.

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Want to see how the move happened in real life? Scan the QR code to watch a video!

A vertical decorative border on the left side of the page features a repeating pattern of various tropical leaves and plants in shades of green and purple. The leaves include monstera, palm, and fern-like shapes.

## THE FORD AFRICAN RAIN FOREST – GORILLA HABITATS

Zoo Atlanta has been home to western lowland gorillas for over 50 years. In that time, 24 baby gorillas have been born here. While animals who move here from other zoos usually already have names when they arrive, animals who are born or hatched here may be named by the people who take care of them or by members of the community. For example, when the youngest gorilla was born in 2019, the community got to submit possible names for him, and his mom, Lulu, “picked” the name Floyd. If you could suggest a name for a baby gorilla, what would you name it?

## THE ASIAN FOREST – FORMER WORLD OF REPTILES

Before Scaly Slimy Spectacular: The Amphibian and Reptile Experience opened in 2015, the World of Reptiles was the oldest building on Zoo grounds still used by the public. The colorful outside of the building features artistic representations of reptiles in mythological and cultural stories throughout history. Pick one to recreate below.

## GIANT PANDA HABITATS

A big moment in Zoo Atlanta's recent history was the arrival of giant pandas Lun Lun and Yang Yang in 1999. Born in China, they came to Zoo Atlanta to help people learn about giant pandas and how to help them. The city was very excited to welcome them. Read the signs around their habitats to learn about them, and draw something you think they might like as a welcome gift.