

# History of Zoo Atlanta

Did you know that the Zoo is one of Atlanta's oldest cultural institutions? It all started in 1889 when a traveling circus went bankrupt on its way through town. A local businessman and philanthropist bought the animals and donated them to the City of Atlanta, and the rest is history. The zoological community has evolved, grown and changed dramatically over the last 100+ years, and Zoo Atlanta is no exception. During your visit today, learn more about Zoo Atlanta's history with these activities!



## EVERYWHERE

In 1935, Asa Candler, Jr., a local businessman and philanthropist, gifted more animals to the Zoo. The animals came from his estate on Briarcliff Road where he had a private menagerie, and there was quite a variety! Some of those species are still represented at the Zoo today. Check them off as you see them during your visit.

Elephant

Lion

Zebra

Ostrich

Bear

Monkeys

## ANYWHERE

Before animal populations in zoos were managed by Species Survival Plan® (SSP) Programs, local newspapers would hold fundraisers to help the Zoo bring in new animals. As you explore the Zoo today, look for signs or talk to a Zoo team member to learn about recent (within the last year) arrivals to the Zoo, whether they're animals who transferred here from another facility, or if they were born or hatched here. Write a headline for an article focused on the animal you learn about.

## EVERYWHERE

Look for this logo on the species identification signs (small signs that tell you a species name, diet, range, and conservation status) throughout the Zoo. It indicates a population is managed by an SSP® program. List a few of the species you find with this logo below.





## FLAMINGO PLAZA

It's hard to believe, but for many years after the Zoo opened, it didn't charge any admission. Only in 1972 did the Zoo begin charging guests for entry. At the time, the cost was 50 cents per adult, 25 cents per child ages 12 to 16, and free for children younger than 12. If the group you're visiting with today had visited in 1972, how much would it have cost?

## THE FORD AFRICAN RAIN FOREST – GORILLA HABITATS

Ever since Willie B. first explored his new outdoor habitat in 1988, Zoo Atlanta has been a leader in the care of gorillas. Explore The Ford African Rain Forest to find the **name**, **age**, and the **habitat number** of the oldest gorilla at Zoo Atlanta.

*Hint: Look for signs in front of the gorilla habitats to find this information.*

## GIANT PANDA HABITATS

Just like the Zoo itself, our planning process has also evolved over time. When bringing a new species to the Zoo, there are a multitude of factors to consider, such as our climate, the physical space available, the expertise of our team, and the educational opportunities associated with a species. This space was designed specifically to meet the needs of giant pandas and provide opportunities for learning more about them through research. If you could add any species to the Zoo, which animal would you want to see? Draw a habitat for it below.