## Progress Monitoring Probe 4

## Zoo Food

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The caretaker took the class into the spotless zoo kitchen where several giant refrigerators are available for storing meat, fish, chicken, fruits, and vegetables. She showed students the storage room, with its huge bins filled with grain pellets, cereal, biscuits, peanut butter, nuts, and seeds. Then she let them read the notebooks that listed types and amounts of foods for each animal.

One of my friends inquired about the anteater. "We can't supply the thousands of live ants and termites this animal eats," the caretaker said, "But we've discovered they will eat cat food soaked in water." As for snakes, she explained that keepers open the door to a snake exhibit very carefully before placing a mouse or rat inside. "If several snakes live together, we'll separate them for a meal so they don't fight over the food," she added.
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Zoo Food (Continued)

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Our class paid a visit to the zoo, but it wasn't an ordinary trip. We went to learn about feeding zoo animals. Before the field trip, our class researched the needs of various animals and made a list of questions. For example, one student wanted to know how they fed crocodiles, my friend wondered if anteaters ate ants, and someone else had questions about feeding snakes.

When the class arrived at the zoo, a caretaker greeted us in a special building where meals are planned and prepared. She explained that zoos rarely feed the animals what they eat in the wild. "An animal's natural foods aren't easily available," she said. "We have to find substitute diets that are appealing and good for the animals."

The caretaker took the class into the spotless zoo kitchen where several giant refrigerators are available for storing meat, fish, chicken, fruits, and vegetables. She showed students the storage room, with its huge bins filled with grain pellets, cereal, biscuits, peanut butter, nuts, and seeds. Then she let them read the notebooks that listed types and amounts of foods for each animal.

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"With crocodiles, keepers usually go in the exhibit area, following the same routine every day, so the crocodiles get used to them," the caretaker said. "For extra safety, we carry long poles and never take our eyes off the animals."

Before they left the zoo, the students watched a caretaker feed a rare pink pigeon chick. As the students boarded the bus to go back to school, our teacher asked them to sum up their feelings about the visit in one or two words. I raised my hand first. "That's easy," I said. "My overall feeling is, I'M FAMISHED!"