



1. A zoo (short for zoological garden; also called an animal park or menagerie) is a facility in which animals are kept within enclosures for public exhibition and often bred for conservation purposes. The term zoological garden refers to zoology, the study of animals. The abbreviation zoo was first used of the London Zoological Gardens, which was opened for scientific study in 1828, and to the public in 1847. In the early days, the zoo was opened to serve the wealthy and high-status people in society.
2. Later, it was realized that humans were curious about strange things. Large predators such as lions, bears or rare animals often caused great interest and could attract many people to see them. For that reason, some zoos opened their doors and welcomed all the people. It is noteworthy that in addition to animals, some zoos also displayed humans. Humans were occasionally displayed in cages at zoos along with non-human animals, to illustrate the differences between people of European and non-European origin. This attracted even more attention from the public – people who saw animals or people who were completely unfamiliar to them for the first time.
3. In the early days, the sole purpose of zoos was entertainment. People simply went to zoos to see things that interested them or that they thought were strange. As time went on, people's need for information increased. People always asked questions about the things they saw in zoos, such as where they came from, what their previous habitats were, how they reproduced, etc. This led the zookeepers to decide to add that knowledge to the cages in zoos.
4. In large animals, a limited number of spaces were available in zoos. As a consequence, in the early days, these animals were kept in cramped cages where they could only survive. This greatly reduced the life expectancy of animals in zoos. Later, the government and zoo managers decided to expand the area where the animals were kept. This was also a humane move. In some places, people even arranged the environment to be closer to the wild environment so that the animals could have more space to move. This change in living space improved the quality of life of many animals. Many of them began to reproduce in the zoo's captive environment.
5. Today, zoos have set themselves apart from other entertainment programs by declaring their role to be education and development of science and awareness among people rather than simply entertainment. In addition, many zoos also carry out conservation or rescue projects for wild animals. There are even some species that only exist in modern zoos and no longer exist in the natural environment.
6. Over time, the educational mission of zoos has evolved. Today zoos are organized to provide both entertainment and education. This has led to a growing appreciation of wildlife and the urgent need to protect biodiversity. It has been shown that this mission is essential to prevent the loss of valuable animal genetic resources.
7. It has been shown that zoos are no longer simply places for entertainment but are also considered places for education and conservation. Students will no longer have to learn about animals through books alone and the conservation of endangered species does not need to be organized in projects in the forest anymore.

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Tulips

1. During the Dutch Golden Age in the 17th century, the Netherlands experienced a period of immense wealth and cultural development. Trade, science, and the arts flourished, creating a thriving middle class with disposable income. This prosperity led to a growing interest in luxury items, including rare flowers such as tulips. The booming economy encouraged speculative investments, and tulips quickly became a symbol of wealth and social status. Their rising popularity was not merely about beauty but about prestige—owning exotic tulips was a way to showcase one's success in this golden era.
2. Tulips first gained popularity in the Ottoman Empire and later spread to Western Europe. When they arrived in the Netherlands, they became an instant sensation. Their bold colors and unique shapes captivated people, and soon tulips were planted in aristocratic gardens and depicted in still-life paintings. The flower's visual appeal made it highly desirable among the wealthy and artistic communities. By the early 1600s, tulips had become one of the most fashionable items in Dutch society, and their fame began to outshine other plants traditionally valued in Europe.
3. As their popularity increased, tulips transitioned from decorative items to commodities. They began to be sold in markets, sometimes even before they had bloomed. Merchants treated tulip bulbs like valuable assets, often purchasing them based on future availability. Buyers and sellers exchanged contracts instead of the actual flowers, betting on future prices. This speculative behavior turned the tulip into more than just a flower—it became a financial instrument, with its value fluctuating daily based on market trends and demand.
4. There are hundreds of tulip varieties, differing in color, shape, and pattern. Some of the most prized tulips during the 17th century were those with unique stripes or flame-like markings on their petals. These effects were later discovered to be caused by a virus affecting the flower, but at the time they were considered extremely rare and beautiful. Breeders carefully cultivated new hybrids, and collectors paid large sums for bulbs with unusual appearances. This diversity in types helped fuel the tulip craze, as people competed to own the most exotic specimens.
5. The tulip trade operated on a complex system of contracts, options, and informal agreements. Because bulbs bloom only once a year, buyers often agreed on future purchases, sometimes without even seeing the flower. Specialized markets were established where traders could buy and sell tulip futures. Prices were agreed upon months in advance, and payments were made when the bulbs were delivered. This abstract trading model made it easier for speculators to participate, but it also disconnected the trade from the real value of the product itself.
6. Tulip trading wasn't limited to the Netherlands. As demand grew, bulbs were shipped across Europe—from France to England and beyond. Traders carried these rare goods by land and sea, navigating a web of routes and tariffs. Each region had its own preferences, and what was fashionable in Amsterdam might not be as popular in Paris. Nonetheless, tulips remained a desirable item among European elites, and international trade routes helped spread both the flower and its financial influence across the continent.
7. The tulip market collapsed suddenly in 1637. After years of increasing prices and wild speculation, confidence disappeared overnight. Buyers stopped showing up to auctions, and contracts became worthless. Panic spread, and traders who had invested heavily were left with massive debts and unsellable bulbs. This event, often referred to as the first economic bubble in history, highlighted the dangers of speculative markets. The tulip crash left a deep impact on the Dutch economy and became a cautionary tale still taught in economics courses today.

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1. While music is often associated with emotional expression, playing certain instruments can be surprisingly physical. Percussionists, drummers, and even pianists require strong coordination, stamina, and posture. Marching band musicians must walk in sync for long hours, often while carrying heavy instruments. String players need muscular endurance in their fingers and arms, and wind instrument players must have good lung capacity. Practicing regularly and performing under pressure also places physical demands on the body. In this way, music isn't only mentally engaging—it can also be quite the workout.
2. Scientific studies have shown that learning to play music strengthens memory. When musicians play, they must recall notes, rhythms, and sequences, sometimes in real-time. Reading sheet music while coordinating hands or breath with timing challenges the brain, forming new neural pathways. This mental exercise has even been linked to improved academic performance in children and better memory retention in older adults. Whether memorizing entire pieces or remembering finger positions, the mental workout of music can benefit cognitive health across all age groups.
3. Music often brings people together, whether in choirs, orchestras, or bands. Being part of a musical group requires teamwork and offers regular opportunities to meet new people. This shared experience fosters a strong sense of community and belonging. For many, joining a music class or ensemble is not just about performance, but also about making friends and socializing in a relaxed, collaborative setting. Over time, these connections can turn into lasting friendships, broadening one's personal and professional network.
4. Learning music requires dedication and routine. Students must practice regularly, attend rehearsals, and develop time management skills to balance music with other responsibilities. This structure helps build self-discipline and patience. Mastering an instrument takes months, even years, and involves repeating scales, fixing mistakes, and gradually improving. These habits transfer to other areas of life, helping musicians stay focused and committed to long-term goals. Music teaches that progress comes through consistency and effort over time.
5. For many people, music is a deeply emotional experience. It offers a unique and personal way to express feelings that may be difficult to put into words. Composing melodies, writing lyrics, or simply playing with passion allows individuals to explore their emotional world and communicate it with others. Music can reflect joy, sadness, hope, or frustration. For this reason, it is often used in therapy to help people process emotions. In creative expression, music becomes both an emotional release and a form of personal storytelling.
6. Musicians often develop a heightened awareness of other people's emotional states. In group settings, they must listen carefully and respond to changes in tone, tempo, or mood. This sensitivity helps them stay in harmony with others, both musically and socially. Playing music with others encourages empathy and understanding. Over time, this experience fosters emotional intelligence—a skill that benefits communication, relationships, and social awareness in everyday life.
7. Many people report feeling happier and more balanced when music is part of their daily life. Playing or listening to music can reduce stress, improve mood, and create a sense of inner peace. It provides a break from daily routines and offers something meaningful to focus on. Some use music to relax before bed, while others rely on it to energize their mornings. The emotional and psychological benefits are powerful, making music a simple yet effective tool for personal wellbeing.

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1. Vegetarianism is not a single dietary choice but includes many different forms. Some vegetarians avoid meat but still eat dairy and eggs—these are called lacto-ovo vegetarians. Others, like vegans, avoid all animal-derived products, including honey and gelatin. There are also pescatarians, who exclude meat but still consume fish. Flexitarians mostly eat plant-based foods but occasionally include meat or fish. These variations show that a meatless diet can be adapted to individual needs and beliefs, making it a flexible and increasingly popular choice for people around the world.
2. People adopt meatless diets for many different reasons. For some, religious beliefs guide their eating habits, while others avoid meat out of concern for animal welfare. Some are motivated by environmental issues, believing that reducing meat consumption lowers their carbon footprint. Health is also a major factor, as some studies link vegetarian diets to lower risks of heart disease and diabetes. The motivations are as varied as the people who choose them, and it's not uncommon for individuals to follow a plant-based lifestyle for a combination of reasons.
3. Many people wonder if it's truly possible to live without eating meat. The answer is yes, as proven by millions of vegetarians and vegans worldwide. While it requires some planning to ensure a balanced intake of protein, iron, and vitamin B12, plant-based diets can be nutritionally complete. In fact, major health organizations have stated that well-planned vegetarian and vegan diets are suitable for all stages of life, including childhood and pregnancy. With a variety of plant-based options now available, choosing a meatless lifestyle is more practical than ever.
4. Factory farming—the industrialized method of raising animals for food—has been criticized for its negative effects on both animals and the environment. Animals are often kept in cramped, stressful conditions, and the use of antibiotics to promote growth raises concerns about resistance. Additionally, factory farms contribute to pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. These harmful impacts are among the key reasons why some people choose to reduce or eliminate meat from their diet. Supporting ethical and sustainable food sources is becoming a growing priority for many consumers.
5. At the core of many vegetarian beliefs is the idea of respecting all forms of life. For some, avoiding meat is a moral decision rooted in the belief that animals have the right to live without suffering. This perspective emphasizes empathy, compassion, and non-violence. It is also reflected in certain spiritual or religious practices where harming living beings is discouraged. Choosing a meatless diet becomes more than just a personal choice—it represents a commitment to treating all creatures with dignity and care.
6. A common benefit reported by people who switch to a plant-based diet is improved health. Many experience lower cholesterol levels, better digestion, and increased energy. Vegetarian diets are often rich in fiber, antioxidants, and healthy fats. Studies show that people who consume more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes tend to have lower risks of heart disease and obesity. However, balance is key—a diet full of processed plant foods can still be unhealthy. When done right, a meatless diet can be a strong foundation for a healthy lifestyle.
7. Reducing meat consumption can also be seen as a global responsibility. Livestock farming is a major contributor to climate change, water usage, and deforestation. By choosing plant-based options, individuals can lower their environmental impact and support a more sustainable food system. Small changes made by many people can have a big collective effect. From conserving water to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, a meatless diet can be a meaningful step toward addressing some of the planet's most urgent environmental challenges.

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Frozen land

1. Although Antarctica is not claimed as a country, several nations have laid territorial claims over parts of the continent. However, under the Antarctic Treaty System signed in 1959, no single country has full ownership. Instead, the region is governed collectively by over 50 countries that have agreed to preserve it for peaceful and scientific purposes. No military activity is allowed, and scientific cooperation is encouraged. This unique model of international governance helps protect the fragile environment of the frozen land and ensures that its resources are not exploited for commercial gain.
2. The first known landing on Antarctica took place in the early 19th century when a group of seal hunters unintentionally arrived at the icy coastline. Later, exploratory missions were organized specifically to set foot on the continent. In 1895, a Norwegian expedition became the first officially recognized landing. These early steps were dangerous and uncertain, with little knowledge of the terrain or weather. Still, the achievement marked a turning point in human exploration, showing that even the most remote and inhospitable places on Earth could be reached with courage and persistence.
3. Antarctica has often been described as the end of the Earth. Located at the southernmost point of the planet, it remains one of the most mysterious and least accessible places for humans. It's surrounded by the Southern Ocean and sits opposite the Arctic in the global geography. For centuries, explorers speculated whether such a place existed at all. Today, while satellite images and scientific missions provide more data, the continent still retains an aura of the unknown, attracting adventurers and scientists who want to experience the planet's final frontier.
4. Despite being covered in thick sheets of ice, Antarctica has a surprisingly diverse and dramatic landscape hidden beneath its surface. Using ground-penetrating radar and satellite imaging, scientists have discovered vast mountain ranges, deep valleys, and even ancient lakes buried under kilometers of ice. These findings suggest that Antarctica was once a very different environment. Studying this hidden geography helps researchers understand the Earth's geological past, as well as how changes in climate may affect the region's ice coverage in the future.
5. The early 20th century saw a dramatic competition between nations to reach the South Pole. Most famously, British explorer Robert Falcon Scott and Norwegian Roald Amundsen led rival expeditions. Amundsen reached the Pole first in 1911, using dog sleds and careful planning. Scott arrived weeks later, only to perish on the return journey with his team. The race to the pole was one of the most extreme tests of human endurance and remains one of the most iconic chapters in the history of polar exploration.
6. Travel across Antarctica remains one of the most difficult journeys on Earth. However, modern technology has significantly reduced the physical effort required. In the past, explorers dragged heavy sleds by hand or used animals, often in dangerous and freezing conditions. Today, snowmobiles, tracked vehicles, and even aircraft allow researchers to move equipment and people more easily. While the environment is still harsh, advances in transportation and survival gear make scientific missions more efficient and less life-threatening than those of early explorers.
7. Antarctica is the coldest place on Earth, with temperatures regularly dropping below -60°C in winter. The continent's high altitude, its position near the South Pole, and the fact that sunlight is absent for months all contribute to its extreme chill. Its white ice surface also reflects most of the sun's heat back into the atmosphere. These unique features make it difficult for heat to accumulate, and as a result, the region remains frozen even in summer. Understanding these conditions helps scientists study global weather patterns and climate change.

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1. Chinese culinary culture is like most other cultures in the world. It started with very basic hunting and gathering. Over time, society gradually developed, and with it, culinary culture developed. Gradually, cuisine became an art form and seemed to reach its peak in the 19th century. Although most Chinese people choose simple food with rice and vegetables, it is undeniable that Chinese culinary art has reached the level of exploiting the maximum flavor and each ingredient.
2. The concept of yin and yang has a complex influence on Chinese cuisine. In fact, this concept also appears in many other areas of life. It can be understood that yin and yang are opposite elements that complement each other to achieve a certain balance. Sweet and sour, cold and hot are typical examples of this concept. Some foods can be classified into hot or cold groups, such as lemon is considered cold and onion is considered hot. Based on this concept, Chinese people choose suitable foods to maintain the balance of the body.
3. In addition to the concept of yin and yang directly influencing the culinary culture, the Chinese also pay close attention to the availability of ingredients. Each region has its own ingredients, and this leads to differences in regional cooking styles. The coastal areas in the south of the country are famous for seafood dishes. In the north, the widespread cultivation of wheat has led to noodle dishes. The southwestern regions are famous for spicy soups, while some regions are famous for grilled meat.
4. Cooking methods are also regionally specific, in addition to the differences in food in these regions. However, there are some food techniques that are considered to be standard in Chinese culture. For example, vegetables are cut into small pieces and eaten with chopsticks. The Chinese have a long history of using chopsticks. The Chinese also often leave fish and meat with bones. According to them, this makes the food more delicious. Steaming is a very popular form of cooking. In addition, frying food with cooking oil is also commonly used.
5. The most common way for Chinese people to eat is street food. It is very common to see stalls selling all kinds of food on both sides of the road. This has become a part of the food culture. For large dining events, the food is often placed in the middle of the table so that guests can try different dishes. The meal is served with tea and sometimes rice wine from the local area.
6. There are signs that Chinese food culture and eating habits are changing. Chinese people now consume a wide variety of foods from many different countries. People in cities also prefer fast and convenient foods. In addition, some traditional products such as milk are consumed less by Chinese people than in the past.
7. The change in Chinese eating habits has a global impact. Due to its huge population, the food demand of the Chinese market will directly affect domestic and international food production. The change in diet leads to problems such as the increase in related diseases that a large economy like China is prone to. Therefore, achieving a balance like the yin-yang philosophy in Chinese culinary culture is clearly a big challenge.

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