

Houston Zoo at Home

OKAPI

Okapi Super Animal Mash Up

Okapis with their amazing adaptations like stripes for camouflage and long tongue for eating various foods and cleaning themselves, can look like a mash up of different animals. Think about some of the interesting adaptations of our very own Zoo animals and see if you can put together your own super animal!

Pick your favorite Zoo animals (at least three) and put together what you think would be a super animal. Make sure to pick specific adaptations that help that animal survive in the wild and add those to your animal. Showcase your super animals to your family then discuss together why you chose what adaptations you did.

Measure Up

All Ages

Okapis (and their cousin the giraffe) have very long black tongues which they use for plucking buds, leaves, and branches from trees and shrubs. We have two okapis at Houston Zoo their names are “Kwame” pronounced “Kwaa- mey” and “Sukari” pronounced “Sue-car-e”. They use their tongues for grooming like giraffe but can also lick their own eyeballs! Just how long is this tongue of theirs? A whopping 18 inches!

Can you find anything in your house, backyard, or neighborhood that is 18 inches long?

Materials Needed: String or yarn, Scissors, Ruler

- Measure out a piece of yarn or string that is 18 inches long.
- Use it to compare to other items and see what else is that same length!

Level Up Challenge: Try to measure other things with your piece of string. How many okapi tongues long is your couch? Your kitchen table? Your bed?

Share your project with us!

Tag your photo using #HoustonZoo or email us your story at communications@houstonzoo.org.