

# Houston Zoo at Home

## LION PRIDE

For these activities watch the video of Zookeepers and our lion pride. [Click here to watch!](#)

### **Binoculars**

#### **All Ages**

Like most predators, lions have binocular vision with both eyes facing forward in the front of their face. This gives them depth perception which is important for knowing how far you need to run to get your food! Our lion sisters Mattie, Nimue, and Uzima like to sit way up high in their habitat and scan their surroundings, watching the pathways and keeping an eye on the other Zoo animals living nearby. Can you act like our lions? Make a pair of binoculars and scan around your house; maybe you'll see something you haven't noticed before!

#### **Materials Needed:**

- 2 toilet paper tubes (or one paper towel tube cut in half)
- Ribbon or string
- Stapler, tape, or glue
- Decorations!

#### **Steps**

1. Stand your tubes up next to each other with the sides touching. Connect them at the top and bottom where they touch with either staples, tape, or glue.
2. Add a neck strap by attaching a piece of string or ribbon to the outside edge of each tube. Decorate to your heart's desire!! Stickers, paint, leaves, glitter... bedazzle away!
3. Now your binoculars should be fully functional. If you pick them up, you should be able to see through the tubes off into the distance.



### **Share your project with us!**

Tag your photo using #HoustonZoo or email us your story at [communications@houstonzoo.org](mailto:communications@houstonzoo.org).

# Pride Art

Lion families are called prides. Our pride at the Houston Zoo is made up of our male, Hasani, and three females: Mattie (short for Matulungu), Nimue (pronounced nee-moo), and Uzima (pronounced oo-zi-mah). Each lion has their own personality and individual markings to tell them apart! Lions are pretty rough and tumble, so most of these markings come in the form of scars. Check out the pictures and captions below to learn how to tell our lions apart, then re-create our pride using paint, some crayons, and a toilet paper tube!



## Materials Needed:

- One toilet paper tube
- Scissors
- Yellow or orange paint
- Plate for paint
- Paper for painting
- Crayons, markers, or pencil colors

## Steps

1. Cut a number of vertical strips into one end of your toilet paper tube. They should go about one-third of the way up and allow the end to flare out like a flower (or lion mane).
2. Dip the flared side into yellow paint (or orange, or blue, or pink, or green) and press it onto your paper. This should create a lovely mane-like shape.
3. Dip the uncut end of your tube into paint and press a circle in the middle of the flare to make the face outline. Then do three more circles for the ladies. Remember; no flare because they have no mane!
4. Now add eyes, nose, mouth, and markings to make each individual lion.

## Level Up Challenge: Pride Rocks!

Our lion pride is strong, fierce, playful, lovable, and charismatic, but above all proud to be who they are. What are you proud of about your family? Can you think of words to describe your very own pride? Go on a scavenger hunt to find some rocks and use them as your canvas. Paint your words on them and display them proudly!

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