

Houston Zoo at Home

TAPIRS

Tip-Toe Tapir!

All Ages

Tapirs are part of a group of animals called ungulates – which means that they have hooved toes! They have three toes on their back feet, and four on their front. They can spread these toes out to increase their grip on the ground; this adaptation helps them stay balanced so they can walk on soft ground. You can often see Noah walking on the edge of his pond, using his toes to grip the sides. You may also spot Noah walking the same trail around his habitat – this is just like tapirs in the wild! They tend to walk the same paths over and over, making trails in the forests and jungles that other animals use to navigate. We do the same thing in our homes - we have familiar trails that we walk from room to room!

Materials Needed: Something to balance next to (wall, railing, chair, etc.)

Steps:

Can you walk like a tapir? In this challenge, try to walk through your home like a tapir would – on your tip toes! Follow your normal daily path inside your home or outside in your yard. Try it with or without shoes. Which one is easier? For more tapir fun, challenge your family to a tip toe off! See who can stand on their tip toes longest!

Share your project with us!

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

Mud Mask!

All ages

The Baird's Tapir lives in areas where they get lots of rain, just like Houston. With so much rain there's bound to be standing water – a favorite place for mosquitos to live! To protect themselves from the mosquitos and stay nice and cool, the tapirs will spend time getting nice and muddy. Our tapirs, Moli and Frida, love to hang out in the corner of their habitat where the mud is plentiful – you can find them napping there in the afternoon of a nice warm day!

Materials Needed*

- Greek Yogurt
- Honey
- Cocoa powder
- Lemon juice
- Buttermilk
- Banana

Steps:

1. Follow the link below to create your own DIY Edible MUD face mask
2. Once you have tried this recipe, you can look here for a few more fun and edible face mask projects. Visit the website for face mask instructions - [click here](#).

**Please take note of any special allergy needs when choosing ingredients and substitute accordingly.*

Share your project with us!

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