



# STEM Career Adventures: Wildlife Specialist

## Bear-Proof Garbage Can



### Adventure Description:

A national park is looking for a wildlife specialist to design animal-proof garbage cans. Your job is to come up with a solution so that animals do not eat garbage that could harm them or make them sick.



### Activity (30 minutes)

#### Step 1: Background on Wildlife and Garbage Cans (5 minutes)

- Show **Discovery Link: Bears and Trash Cans**.
- Ask explorers why wildlife specialists would be interested in designing animal-proof garbage cans. Explain that animals can get sick from eating garbage. Animals can be allergic to human food. Animals can also eat things like paper and cardboard out of the trash that will get stuck in their stomachs.

#### Step 2: Choosing an Animal (5 minutes)

- Divide explorers into pairs. Explain that each pair will select an animal to build an animal-proof garbage can for.
- Provide explorers with **Discovery Handout: Choices of Animals**. As a class, read through the different options of animals and notes on each animal.
- Have each pair select their animal. Have pairs brainstorm what their garbage cans should include based on the notes that the wildlife specialist provided.

#### Step 3: Building (20 minutes)

- Explain to explorers that they will now work in their pairs to design an animal-proof garbage can. Provide explorers with art supplies and building materials to create their new invention.
- Remind explorers to look at **Discovery Handout: Choices of Animals** to make sure they take into account what wildlife specialists have written about each animal.
- When explorers are finished, have them present their designs to the rest of the class.

**Contact Allison, Director of Customer Service, with any questions or feedback at 314-272-2560 or [allison@rozzylearningcompany.com](mailto:allison@rozzylearningcompany.com)**

Send photos of your explorers and their projects to [allison@rozzylearningcompany.com](mailto:allison@rozzylearningcompany.com) to be featured on Rozzy's website, social media pages, and blog!



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### Materials List

#### Provided online:

- Discovery Link: Bears and Trash Cans
- Discovery Handout: Choices of Animals

#### Not provided:

- Tinfoil
- Plastic Materials (e.g., soda bottles, food containers)
- Art supplies and building materials

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