




National Zoo – Washington, DC



Zoos began as a way for citizens to learn about and help protect the large variety of animals in our country and around the world.  The very first American zoo was built in Philadelphia in 1874 and was called the Philadelphia Zoological Gardens. Today, it is Arco's favorite zoo.

Arco describes it this way, "The see-through mesh trails the animals use to travel above and around the zoo make me think I'm actually living with the tigers, lions and other wild things. It's so fun!"

In 1889 William Hornaday, the bison conservationist, brought 15 North American animals who were disappearing - **bison, deer, foxes, prairie dogs, badger, and lynx** - to live on the National Mall in Washington, D.C, our nation's capital. What Hornaday began became today's National Zoo.

In 1899 Hornaday helped open the Bronx Zoo (the New York Zoological Society) and brought 10 bison to live there while he was the director.

Visit and Learn

Arco found two videos for you and your family to watch. *(Use FULL SCREEN for both)*

1. "Meet Mr. Hornaday and some bison first," Arco says.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7R7VjgxTMeo>
2. "I really hope to visit the National Zoo in Washington D.C. someday. Maybe this video will convince my Mom and Dad that we should go!"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jivSzzFZA0>

As you watch, think about and answer these questions

- How many animals live in or near water?
- Which animal was still asleep and then showed up later?
- Are any of Hornaday's original animal species on the American Trail at the National Zoo? Why do you think this is true?

Remember, he brought these endangered species to the National Mall:

bison deer foxes prairie dogs badger lynx