

## Virtual Tours

Some of the best museum, zoo and art gallery tours for children are available online. Many museums, art galleries and zoos across the world have set up virtual tours - ideal for all ages. Here are just a few ideas – there are many more:

[National History Museum](#)

[British Museum](#)

[RAF Museum](#)

## Virtual Zoo Trips

You can visit some of the world's best zoos, for free, right from your own home. There are educational resources such as worksheets, tasks and craft ideas, perfect for keeping the kids busy. Whether you've got a budding zoologist at home, or simply want to have 'Penguin Cam' on in the background, discover three of the best virtual school trips to the zoo.

### San Diego Zoo live cams

From the live Baboon Cam to Polar Bear Cams, the San Diego Zoo has something for everyone with a passion for wildlife.

Their dedicated educational site contains pre-recorded videos of the animals alongside extensive craft tutorials, downloadable colouring sheets and recipes. See the Live Cams [here](#); pre-recorded videos [here](#); and activities for younger kids [here](#).

## Chester Zoo Learning Resources

Bring Chester Zoo straight to your kitchen table thanks to these fun learning resources. Filterable by educational stage, subject and topic, there's something for every age to be getting along with if you're all stuck inside.

Create and play with downloadable masks: For tiny tots aged three to five, there are [downloadable animal masks](#), perfect for colouring in and wearing on a Facetime call to family and friends.

Read and write with animal fact files: For kids aged seven and over, take a look at these [animal fact files](#). Ask them to pick out facts about each animal and write a paragraph to explain more about the specific species.

On top of lots of live videos already on [Chester Zoo's Facebook page](#), they'll be hosting all-day live virtual tours featuring the kids' favourite animals, so they can enjoy a whole day of animal antics.

Check out the red pandas, Rothschild's giraffes, Asian elephants, and butterflies, before catching up with sun bears, the Sumatran tigers, the Humboldt penguins and the aquarium.

## Feeding Time at Cincinnati Zoo

Visit the [Cincinnati Zoo Facebook page](#) for plenty of educational videos featuring the zookeepers, explaining all about the animals.

Home Safaris at 7pm: Each day at 7pm (UK time), the zoo will livestream a [home safari](#) to help make the time at home fun and educational.

The home safaris will be streamed on Facebook Live, but if you don't have social media or would prefer to watch them at a different time, they are posted to the [Cincinnati Zoo website](#) the next day.

Not only do these home safaris feature videos, they also include [craft ideas](#) that can be completed indoors or in the garden.

**The Fiona Show:** With over 3.2million followers, baby hippo Fiona is one of Cincinnati Zoo's most famous residents. Born six weeks premature, the Fiona Show follows her life over 12 episodes allowing the kids to see her remarkable story. And you can watch them all [here](#) on the zoo's Facebook page.

### **Lionsgate Live! A Night at the Movies**

Film distributor Lionsgate UK are celebrating the communal experience of going to the cinema. They are also supporting the NHS Charities Together COVID-19 Urgent Appeal and The Film and TV Charity COVID-19 Emergency Response, by presenting Lionsgate Live! A Night at the Movies, a programme of four Saturdays of free films streaming live on YouTube.

Beginning on 2 May and continuing every Saturday for four consecutive weeks, Lionsgate UK will livestream some of its most popular theatrical releases, starting with the multiple Academy Award and BAFTA-winning *La La Land* exclusively on the Lionsgate UK YouTube channel.

[Watch Free On YouTube](#)

### **The Fitzwilliam Museum**

Look Think Do: resources to help you stay creative and connected at home.

We are missing welcoming visitors of all ages to learn, create and enjoy themselves in the museum. Over the coming weeks and months, we will be sharing lots of different ways for you to connect with the collections, be inspired, create, respond and relax.

[Look Think Do](#) is a brand new set of activities designed as a starting point for looking, talking and doing together. They have been created with families learning together and teachers planning remote learning in mind, but we hope people of all ages will enjoy the opportunity to spend some time with some of our collection favourites – from ancient Egypt to Impressionist painting.

New entries are added on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays throughout April and May 2020, with extra activities and virtual stories for families with under 5s on the first Saturday of the month.

Contact [education@fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk](mailto:education@fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk) with questions and suggestions about how to stay connected with the Fitzwilliam Museum.

Thanks for these great ideas 😊

### **RSPB**

Create a multi-storey hotel that's full of all sorts of natural materials, providing hidey-holes for creatures galore.

Safe hideaways can be hard for wildlife to find in some gardens, and what better use for all your garden waste and odds and ends?

[Build your bug hotel](#) (also known as a wildlife hotel or stack) well and it could shelter anything from hedgehogs to toads, solitary bees to bumblebees, and ladybirds to woodlice.

### **The Wildlife Trust**

Build your own bug mansion and attract a multitude of creepy crawlies to your garden. An average garden accommodates more than 2,000 different species of insect! Very few of these creatures cause significant damage to our prized plants, and there are many more insects that actually help us to control the ones that do! By providing the right habitats, we can greatly increase the number of 'beneficial' insects in the garden.

One way to increase the comfort of your patch for insects is to [build them a bug mansion](#).

### **Woodland Trust**

[10 nature activities](#) for kids. We hope these ideas help you enjoy your time together while your children are at home.

For more inspiration, take a look at our series of activity blogs to discover more crafts and ways to explore nature at home – [details on the website](#).

You can also check out our [Tree Tools for Schools website](#). It's home to all of our educational materials for schools - from wildlife ID sheets to interactive puzzles and quizzes. So you'll find plenty of ways to keep your children engaged and active.

### **Home Help Hub**

While our schools remain closed for the majority of children, many parents have been turning to online resources to help ensure their children continue learning and developing at home.

Keen to make sure our local children don't miss out on any areas of the curriculum, the Education Team at Cambridgeshire County Council have been working hard on creating new activities, plans and puzzles for their popular Home Learning Hub platform.

The resource, which also provides links to other trusted learning materials, aims to offer a 'one-stop shop' for parents who may otherwise find themselves jumping between different sites.

The team have created short recommendation videos, highlighting some of their own favourite activities, as well as 'Study Topics', where children can study one topic while applying lots of skills from other areas of the curriculum.

A brand new Outdoor Learning page offers lots of activities to help families make the most of their gardens and outdoor spaces as places for informal learning.

Some of the activities don't require a garden – the Sound Safari and Cloud Gazing could be done whilst sitting near an open window – and some can be done using the things children might find on their daily walk.

The Hub is developing regularly, and [you can jump on in here](#).

### **Activity Alliance**

#### **STEP: Inclusion resources to support activity while at home**

Activity Alliance releases new ways to adapt activities so more people can stay in and work out. Disabled people and providers can access new social media graphics and tips on the STEP tool. STEP stands for Space, Task, Equipment and People. It is one of the most effective ways to use household items to be active.

[Read more on STEP](#).

### **Moving More while at Home**

During this testing time, we remain committed to ensuring disabled people can be and stay active. Our team is here to support your organisation in whatever way we can.

There are many ways to continue enjoying an active lifestyle. This includes adapting activities so everyone in the household, disabled and non-disabled, can take part together.

#### **[Stay In, Work Out](#)**

### **Looking after your Mental Health**

This situation affects us all – some cope very well, while others find themselves feeling low, anxious or depressed. Looking after yourself and your family is important – please ask for help if you need it. I have attached a list of organisations you can contact for help and support. This is just a short list, there are many other organisations you can contact – if you would like more information about them please get in touch.

### **Parent Zone: Video Chatting: A Guide for Parents/Carers**

Hands up if you've used Zoom, FaceTime, Houseparty, Skype or WhatsApp to stay in touch with family and friends since COVID-19 restrictions began? That'll be most of us then, and the same is probably true of our children.

Video chat is a great way for young people to feel close to their friends during this unsettling time, so long as they're having a positive experience when using it. Here's how to help children of different ages get the most from their video chatting experiences.

#### **[Advice for parents of primary school-aged children](#)**

#### **[Advice for parents of secondary school-aged children](#)**