

**Chicago Public Library-Children’s Services
Rahm’s Readers: Summer Learning Challenge 2014
Explore and Roar**

**TEACHER TOOLKIT
Contents**

Summer Learning Challenge FAQ for Teacherspage 2
How can your students sign up for the Summer Learning Challenge? How does it connect to the work you’re doing in your classroom? Find those answers and more here!

Summer Learning Challenge FAQpages 3-4
Chicago Public Library’s Summer Learning Challenge is still new. Check this section for information on how youth participate, prizes involved, and other components of the program.

SLC Explore and Roar Themespage 5
The Summer Learning Challenge features 8 weekly themes, developed in partnership with Brookfield Zoo, Lincoln Park Zoo, Museum of Science and Industry, and The Anti-Cruelty Society. These themes are the inspiration for the weekly “Brain Builders” in the **Explorer’s Guide** that participants receive when they register for the program and will also feature in programming at library branches during the summer.

SLC Early Literacy Fact Sheetpage 6
New this summer—a special Early Literacy component for summer learners ages 0-5!

SLC Teen Volunteer Fact Sheetpage 7
As in years previous, youth ages 12-17 are encouraged to sign up as volunteers during the Summer Learning Challenge.

Sample Icebreaker Activitypage 8
View a sample icebreaker and small activity similar to what might occur in library branches across the city during the Summer Learning Challenge. Feel free to use these activities with your students to encourage interest in Chicago Public Library’s Summer Learning Challenge!

Sample Explorer’s Guide Brain Builder Activitypage 9-10
The Summer Learning Challenge **Explorer’s Guide** boasts information, resources, and activities for youth participants, and the 8 weekly Brain Builders, designed to challenge critical thinking and help youth engage with the summer theme. This sample Brain Builder is an example of how youth will explore this summer in libraries and/or at home.

Chicago Public Library-Children's Services
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Summer Learning Challenge FAQ for Teachers

Q. How can I get my students signed up for the Summer Learning Challenge?

- A. There are three different ways to help your students sign up for the Summer Learning Challenge. It's as easy as ABC:
- A. Talk to your neighborhood library's children's librarian to have registration cards dropped off for your classroom. Have kids fill out key information and the staff from Chicago Public Library will pick them up and register your students. Don't know how to find your neighborhood branch? Call Chicago Public Library Children's Services at 312-747-4780 for help or check online at chipublic.org.
 - B. Tell your students to hurry in to their nearest Chicago Public Library location starting on June 9 to sign-up in person!
 - C. Have your students sign up online at chipublic.org/rahmsreaders. Click "join" and follow the prompts:
 - Step 1: If your students have a library card, they will use their library card number and zip code to sign up. If they do not have a library card, students can sign up using an e-mail address.
 - Step 2: All students will also need to provide their name, birth date (month and year), neighborhood library if they know it, and school name.
 - Step 3: Students will then choose a user name from a drop-down menu and choose a PIN (we recommend using one's zip code as a PIN).

Q: Can someone from the library come talk to my classroom about the Summer Learning Challenge?

- A: Yes! Please call your neighborhood library or Children's Services at 312-747-4780 to schedule an appointment.

Q: Is there a way I can know which of my students participate in the Summer Learning Challenge or have access to their accomplishments over the summer?

- A: Require your students to bring in their Summer Learning Challenge materials in the fall. We recommend asking to see their Explorer's Guides, which will act as a sort of scrapbook/journal of participation, or their activity log sheets. Or, ask students who participate in Chicago City of Learning's online badging component of the program to tell you which badges they earned (visit <http://explorechi.org/> for more information).

Q. How does Chicago Public Library's Summer Learning Challenge connect to what we are doing in the classroom?

- A. Summer slide accounts for up to two-thirds of the 9th grade achievement gap. Help your students stay ahead by encouraging reading and learning all summer long.

Chicago Public Library-Children's Services

Rahm's Readers: Summer Learning Challenge 2014

Explore and Roar

Chicago Public Library Summer Learning Challenge FAQ

Q: What's new and what's different for 2014?

A: Research indicates that in order for children to be relevant learners in the 21st Century, they must have multiple competencies. Last summer CPL guided four styles of learning; this year we have collapsed that into three and will track the following skills:

- **Read** – Youth read for a minimum of 300 minutes. We encourage youth to read or listen to texts of all kinds, including books, magazines and newspapers, and online sites such as vetted databases or websites.
- **Discover** – Youth complete a minimum of one discover activity. They discover by attending a program, visiting a museum, completing a Brain Builder or STEM activity, or visiting an interactive learning website.
- **Create** – Youth complete a minimum of one create activity. Creation includes making art, cooking, performing, writing, or completing design challenges.

Q: When is the program?

The Summer Learning Challenge runs from June 9-August 2, 2014.

Q: How does Chicago Public Library assess these different types of learning?

A: We use Reflection Sheets in our library branches to help guide children through observations about their learning and to close the learning cycle. In order to earn their Summer Learning Challenge prize for completing the program, youth must reflect on their experiences reading, discovering, and creating.

Q: What are the ages of participants this year?

A: The Summer Learning Challenge is open to ALL ages, meaning no child will be turned away. There are specific components for targeted age groups:

Early Learners, ages 0-5: The Early Literacy component of the Summer Learning Challenge focuses on the five practices from American Library Association's Every Child Ready to Read 2 (talk, sing, read, write, and play). Parents and children ages 0-5 will log the books read aloud and other activities in the specially designed early childhood log. Even a baby can participate with a parent by hearing stories read aloud and by taking part in age appropriate activities. Note: A 5-year-old who has already completed kindergarten will get more out of participating in the elementary-school age component.

Elementary School-Age, ages 5-13: Read, Discover, Create with our special STEAM-themed activities, booklists and design challenges.

Teens, ages 14-18: For the first time this year, teens will have a specially designed program just for them! Stay tuned for details from the Teen Services Department. For more information, contact Jeremy Dunn, Director of Teen Services at 312-747-4092 or jdunn@chipublic.org

Parents and Caregivers: Once again we encourage parents and caregivers to participate in the Summer Learning Challenge alongside their children! Parents who reflect on how and what they learned with their child(ren) during the summer using our Parent/Caregiver Reflection Sheet and return it to their branch will be entered into a raffle to win a Parent Technology Package.

Q: How are children going to be rewarded this year?

A: As always, we have goals and prizes for summer learners. This year, we will only count minutes read, not book titles as in previous summers. Participants who read for 300 minutes and complete one Discover and one Create activity will earn a book bag and set of markers to decorate it.

Participants who meet the goal and earn a book bag are then encouraged to continue reading, discovering and creating. Each time kids complete a reflection activity after meeting the initial goal they are eligible to enter the branch raffle to win an eReader.

NOTE: Participation goals for the Teen Summer Challenge (ages 14-18) are different than for early literacy and school age participants. Contact Teen Services for more information.

Q. What is the status of the Mayor's Chicago City of Learning and city badging?

A. Youth ages 5 and up are again eligible to earn electronic badges through the Mayor's city-wide initiative, Chicago City of Learning (<http://explorechi.org/>). Like all City Departments serving youth, Chicago Public Library offers badges for youth participating in our summer programming.

Chicago Public Library Children's Services

Rahm's Readers: Summer Learning Challenge 2014 More About Explore and Roar

This summer, Chicago Public Library's Summer Learning Challenge theme is "Explore and Roar," in partnership with The Anti-Cruelty Society, Brookfield Zoo, Lincoln Park Zoo, and Museum of Science and Industry. Kids have a natural curiosity about animals and wildlife. Partnering with the our two zoos (major cultural institutions in Chicago) gives us the opportunity to explore our urban animal neighbors as well as animals we might not get the chance to see without the zoos.

Partnering with zoos also helps show youth how we can participate in conservation efforts. From disappearing bees to dwindling resources, the conservation issues affecting wildlife are immediate and our actions can help. Finally, zoos offer a new way to engage in STEM concepts for Chicago Public Library's patrons. Aspects of biology, technology, design, mapping, graphing, and more all come into play at zoos, making STEM easy to weave into this summer theme.

Our 8-week Summer Learning Challenge features 8 themes exploring a variety of issues connected to zoos and wildlife. Each theme is also represented with a Brain Builder critical thinking activity in the youth Explorer's Guide.



8 Themes/Brain Builder Topics

Animal Observation
Home Sweet Habitat
Built to Survive (adaptation)
Predator/Prey
Everybody Eats
Animals at Work
Conservation and You
Animal Enrichment: Everybody Plays!

Chicago Public Library-Children's Services

Rahm's Readers: Summer Learning Challenge 2014

Explore and Roar

EARLY LITERACY COMPONENT FACT SHEET

WHAT: For the first time ever, Chicago Public Library will have a separate and special early literacy component for the Summer Learning Challenge. The one-sheet poster and log is a special place for young children and their caregivers to keep track of what they READ, DISCOVER and CREATE in the summer of 2014. We will align to **American Library Association's Every Child Ready to Read 2** initiative and braid together the 5 skills (Talk, Sing, Read, Write, Play) with CPL's three tracks of summer learning: **READ, DISCOVER** and **CREATE**.

WHERE:

- All CPL locations will have the early literacy Summer Learning Challenge sheet available.
- Translations will be made available.
- A downloadable sheet for additional logging will be available from the CPL website.

WHEN: This initiative will run for the full eight weeks of the Summer Learning Challenge, June 9-August 2, 2014

WHY: The goal of this project is to introduce specially designed and aligned materials to children ages 0-5 and promote critical literacy skills to their parents and caregivers with a fun and engaging piece. By creating a special early literacy piece, Chicago Public Library supports ALA's critical early learning messages with 21st Century learning skills of **READ, DISCOVER** and **CREATE**.

HOW:

- **READ or be READ ALOUD to:** We will track children's reading by logging 20 minute increments. Read to the 300 minute goal...or read much more!
- **DISCOVER & CREATE:** Learn and create through talking, singing, writing and playing.

All children who READ, DISCOVER and CREATE with us this summer will get a special book bag they can color at home!

Chicago Public Library-Children's Services & Teen Services

Rahm's Readers: Summer Learning Challenge 2014

Explore and Roar

Summer Learning Challenge Teen Volunteer Fact Sheet

- WHO: Youth ages 12-17 and adults (ages 18* and older). Volunteers must meet the following criteria:
- ages 12 or older and **entering** grades 6-12
 - available to volunteer a minimum of 16 hours during the 8 weeks of the SLC at assigned neighborhood library
 - able to read well, listen, follow directions and manage time well
 - enjoy working with others (especially engaging and interacting with young children and their caregivers)
 - able to attend 1-2 training sessions (one mandatory training at the assigned neighborhood library and an optional training at the Brookfield Zoo on May 31, 2014)

**Volunteers 18 or older must be approved for their position through the City of Chicago fingerprinting and screening process. A screening referral form with instructions for this process may be obtained at a neighborhood library.*

- WHAT: From June 9-August 2, 2014, Chicago Public Library will host Rahm's Readers: our annual Summer Learning Challenge where kids are encouraged to READ, DISCOVER and CREATE! Volunteers play a key element in the success of the library's summer program.

This volunteer program is a pre-employment experience for youth ages 12-17. This experience helps youth learn how to work with children and be mentors, keep schedules, work collaboratively, gain experience in public service and organize complex records associated with the Summer Learning Challenge. During the eight-week program, responsibilities of volunteers vary daily but will always be related to the encouragement of children and families in summer learning: reading, discovering and creating. Volunteers play a meaningful role in developing and mentoring lifelong readers and learners.

Volunteers are evaluated based on their availability, commitment, demonstrated success in working with youth and families and organizational skills.

- WHERE: All Chicago Public Library locations.

- HOW: Contact your local library to get more information. Note: these are unpaid positions.

Chicago Public Library-Children's Services

Rahm's Readers: Summer Learning Challenge 2014

Explore and Roar

Sample Icebreaker and Activity

BAT AND MOTH

Brain Builder Connection: "Built to Survive" and "Everybody Eats"

Group size: 6+ (more fun in large groups)

Materials: none

- Explain that bats have radar that rebounds against things surrounding them, helping them to know where they are and to locate prey. Each time sound bounces off of something it gives a unique signal back to the bat.
- Form a circle and choose 1 participant to be the bat. This person will keep his or her eyes closed.
- Choose several other participants to be moths.
- Whenever the bat says "bat," the moths respond "moths" (acting like the radar sending signals back to the bat).
- The bat tries to tag any moths s/he hears. When a moth is tagged, the bat "eats" it and it's out of the game.

EXQUISITE CORPSE

Brain Builder Connection: "Built to Survive" and "Predator/Prey"

Group size: 3+ (3 per paper)

Materials: paper, drawing utensils

- Put a zoo spin on the classic exquisite corpse activity by having children use the process to collaboratively create new animals! If time permits, discussing adaptations before starting will help make this activity even more dynamic.
- Divide into groups of 3 and give each group a sheet of paper and drawing supplies.
- Instruct the groups to fold the paper into three sections, as if they were mailing a letter.
- Instruct the first person to draw the top of their animal (probably the head) in the top section, keeping their drawing secret from the rest of their group. When the drawing is complete, they should fold this section over so that no one can see it, but, before doing so, extend little marks onto the middle panel so that the next person will see where the neck ends.
- The first person passes the paper to the next person, who draws on the middle section which will be the torso. Remind them to be sure to connect the torso to the neck lines that are visible from the head part of the drawing. Again, instruct them to fold it over when finished so that the third person will not see the head or torso panel and to extend little marks onto the third panel so that the next person will see where your torso ends.
- The third person now draws the bottom of the animal in the last section, ensuring that they connect the legs to the little marks of the torso.
- Unfold and VOILA! You have made your own, unique exquisite corpse animal!



PREDATOR & PREY

Living things share habitats and interact with each other, and this is especially true at mealtime! Animals that hunt and eat other animals are called predators. The animals they eat are called prey. Predators and prey have adaptations to help them hunt and evade each other. For example, eagles have sharp talons to grab and capture fish, and stick insects blend into their surroundings.

What predators can you think of? What adaptations do they have to help them as they hunt their prey? Can you think of animals that are both predators and prey?

Build the Ultimate Predator

Materials

Various household materials:

- cardboard tubes
- construction paper
- plastic forks
- plastic spoons
- tooth picks
- rubber bands
- paper cups

Tape or glue

Drawing materials

Directions

Predators go through four stages of hunting in order to get a meal.

First, a predator must **find** their prey. They do this through sight, smell or hearing.

Second, predators **attack** their prey. They may chase their prey or stay hidden and surprise them.

Third, predators have to **capture** their prey. Some predators use their sharp claws or talons to capture their prey. Others will grab prey directly with their mouths.

Finally, the predators will **eat** their prey. Fangs, a sharp hooked beak and sharp teeth all help predators consume their prey.



Check it Out

Deadly!: The Truth About the Most Dangerous Creatures on Earth by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Neal Layton

Carnivores by Aaron Reynolds, illustrated by Dan Santat

Predator Videos
<http://goo.gl/H4mKir>



Visit a Zoo

Visit a zoo and choose five predator animals to observe. Take note of their adaptations and discuss what makes them able to hunt for food.



Explore More

Prey have adaptations to keep themselves safe from predators. They may hide or blend into their surroundings, run quickly or use bright colors to warn predators of their poison or bad taste. Create a prey that can survive an encounter with your ultimate predator.

Directions Continued

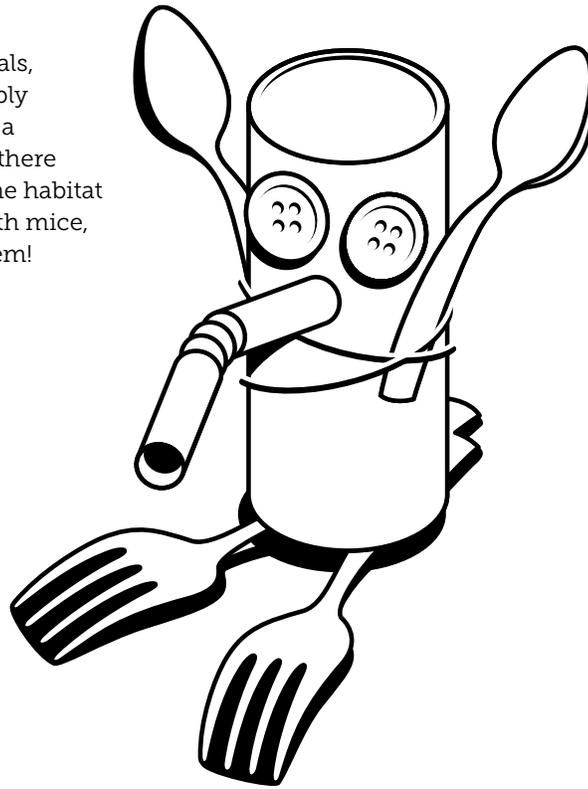
As you plan your ultimate predator, think about what type of prey your predator will hunt. Decide how your predator finds, attacks, captures and eats its prey.

Use household materials to build your new animal.

Make sure you include any other adaptations your predator needs to survive, such as fur, scales, a tail, a shell or spikes.

Give your predator a name.

Even though predators eat other animals, they are not "bad animals." This is simply how they survive. Predators help keep a habitat in balance. Without predators, there would be too many prey animals for the habitat to support. Imagine our cities filled with mice, because there was nothing to hunt them!



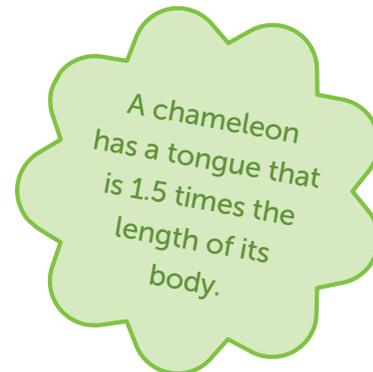
Share

Bring your ultimate predator to the library and share your creation. How does it hunt and eat its food? What habitat does it live in?



Dig Deeper

What would happen if the eyes of an eagle were on the side of its head instead of in the front? How would that change how they hunt and what they eat?



A chameleon has a tongue that is 1.5 times the length of its body.