Many animals have unique ways to protect their skin from the sun’s harmful ultraviolet rays. As you walk around the zoo, can you identify these animals based on the pictures and the hints provided about how they are sun smart?

A. Meerkat

These animals have black rings around their eyes to absorb the sun’s rays, protecting their eyes from sun damage.

B. Hippo

This third-largest land mammal protects its skin by producing a pink, oily substance. This oil keeps the skin from drying out and offers sun protection.

C. Giraffe

This tall mammal has a dark tongue that protects it from getting sunburnt as it reaches up into trees to eat leaves.

D. Pig

This animal loves to roll around in the mud. It’s not just for fun! The mud acts like sunscreen and keeps this animal cool, since it does not have sweat glands.

E. Camel

This animal can have several humps on its body. Its most protective ones though are over its eyes, which act like sun visors to protect its eyes from sun damage.

F. Elephant

The world’s largest land mammal has a lot of skin to protect from the sun! The first thing they do when they get outside is throw dirt and hay up onto their backs to protect themselves from the sun.

BEFORE YOU HEAD TO THE ZOO, MAKE SURE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE BEING SUN SMART TOO:

Wear protective clothing, when possible. This includes long sleeves, pants, a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses.

Apply a broad-spectrum, SPF 30 or higher sunscreen to all exposed skin before you head out. Remember to reapply every 2 hours while at the zoo.

When you need a break, find a shaded area to rest. Use this time to see which animals you still need to identify for this scavenger hunt.

SPOT™ the Sun Smart Animals: Zoo Scavenger Hunt

A. Meerkat   B. Hippo   C. Giraffe   D. Pig   E. Camel   F. Elephant

SPOT™ children’s activities are a part of the American Academy of Dermatology’s SPOT Skin Cancer™ campaign.

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