

Virtual Zoo Tour: Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens: Meet Fiona! (on Facebook)

Minimal adult support (only for the online portion and dictating if necessary)

Ages 4+

Supplies: Paper and Drawing/Writing Materials

Many zoos, museums, and natural parks have banded together to make themselves accessible while schools are not in session. Today we will visit the FaceBook page of the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens. Feel free to explore the zoo's offerings before settling in for our activity. The zoo is also offering free, live tours on FB every weekday at 3:00 EDT!

For this activity, have an adult (if warranted) help you find the zoo's FB page. When you are done exploring, go to the episodes about the zoo's adorable baby hippo, named Fiona! Quite a baby, weighing in at more than 800 pounds! Fiona was born very prematurely (too soon), and the doctors were not sure if she would survive, but she did. The playful baby hippo has now become one of the most popular attractions at the zoo.

Before watching, make a list of 5 (or more!) questions you might have about Fiona. Have an adult write them down for you if you are not yet a writer. See how many of your questions you can find answers to in the episodes you watch. These activities do not need to be done in one sitting! If your questions are not answered, write a letter to the zoo (or to Fiona! She gets a lot of fan mail!) and ask your questions! Be sure to include your return address so they can send you the answers. The address is: 3400 Vine St., Cincinnati, Ohio; 45220.

The next activity is to use your imagination and write and illustrate a story about a Fiona adventure. This can be either realistic or imaginary. What mischief could an 800-pound hippo get into? Have fun! If you have difficulty drawing Fiona, think about the shapes you would need, and start there. Remember, nothing in life is ever perfect!