



Belize Zoo Discussion Questions

Although whitetail deer live in both the United State and Belize, why are their deer quite a bit smaller than the ones found in the US?

The tapir has several fascinating adaptations that help it survive in one of the most complex and competitive ecosystems in the world. Name some of these unique features and explain why they might create an advantage for them?

All of the cat species seen at the Belize zoo successfully live in the same environment, many times with overlapping territories. What does this tell you about their survival needs?

Jaguars are considered apex predators - predators at the top of the food chain, with few (if any) of its own natural predators. What other animals did you see today that might qualify for this distinction? (Don't just think about cats!)

The Belize zoo runs a special program called a "problem jaguar" rehabilitation program. How might a jaguar qualify for this program? What things out of their control might also be a factor?

Many of the birds you've seen have bright colors and sport loud vocalizations. Why might these attributes aid in their survival within the Belizean rainforest? Any disadvantages to these traits?

Rehabilitated animals at the zoo, in many cases, cannot be released back into their natural, wild environment. What are some reasons for this?

Why would a tour of the zoo at night be a different experience than during the day? What differences would you expect to find?

Many interesting things at the zoo might not even be exhibits or residents of the zoo. Did you notice anything on your trip?