

**Oregon Zoo: Zoo Quest
Portland, Oregon**



How do you capture the interest of tweens with smartphones and help them make the connection between their purchasing power and habitat destruction? For the Oregon Zoo, we did just that.

In 2014, The Acorn Group joined forces with writer Leslie Comnes to develop Zoo Quest, a program at the Oregon Zoo inspired by geocaching and other questing games. Equipped with a souvenir passport, children follow rhyming clues that successively lead to six stations. At each station they encounter a Zoo Quest sign that answers the question and get their passport stamped. As they travel around the zoo, they begin to make connections between their smartphones and the wildlife they are watching.

<p>Station 1</p> <p>Clue: <i>These animals hear each other from miles away But when it comes to their future, they don't have much say. Mining the metals that electronics contain Has damaged their habitat – and their Asian terrain.</i></p>	<p>Question: <i>How are these animals connected to everyday electronics?</i></p>
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The Zoo Quest message is not about abandoning electronic media. Rather, it's about thinking about delaying the purchase of new devices because of the cost to wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Tarnished lands

Did you know electronic devices contain gold and other valuable metals?

Gold makes electronic contacts more reliable. Tin is used in solder (SAW-der) to bind components together.

But, mining these metals can be devastating. In Indonesia, miners cut down the rainforest in search of gold and tin. This reduces Asian elephant habitat and drives elephants onto roads and farms, where they may be killed. Mining also discharges mercury and other toxins into the water.

The Acorn Group created the Zoo Quest interpretive message hierarchy, Zoo Ambassador Training Manual, Zoo Quest passport, animal stamps, Zoo Quest exhibit signs, infographics, pledge sheet, and hands-on materials for the discovery carts, as well as protocol for formative and summative evaluation of the program.

Global trade

What does it take to make an electronic device?

Find these components
and/or if you roll them:

- SILVER
- CHINA
- COBALT
- GOLD
- GERMANY
- TIN

On the right connect
the lines