

# Book and Activity Suggestions to Match Your Summer Adventure: Zoos!

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What to do...what to do...If you are like us, the summer is an exciting time to discover new books, break out the art project we've been promising ourselves to start since February, and try every popsicle flavor from the ice cream truck.

Summer is the time to beat the heat, right? Whether that means hunting for air conditioning or jumping into a pool, we are here to keep you and your family loving books while you keep cool.

Over the coming weeks, we are pairing Lee & Low titles to your favorite summer destinations with fun activities!

**Your summer outing:** the ZOO

**Book recommendation:** [Parrots Over Puerto Rico](#)

## Questions during reading:

- How have humans affected Puerto Rican parrots and Puerto Rico?
- What physical and behavioral adaptations help the Puerto Rican parrots survive in their environment?
- How do the scientists demonstrate persistence and creativity?
- What are the purpose and activities of the Puerto Rican Parrot Recovery Program?
- How has Puerto Rico changed over time?
- What does this book teach about sustainability?
- Do you think communities and governments should save endangered species? Why or why not?



## Activities:

### Recipe for Parrot Crackers!

Ingredients: avocado, lemon, raisins/dried cranberries, banana chips, round crackers

1. Peel half an avocado. In a small bowl, mash half the avocado with a fork until it is lump-free.
2. Squeeze and mix in a little lemon juice into the mashed avocado to prevent it from turning brown.
3. With a bread knife, spread the avocado over one side of each of the round crackers.
4. Place two raisins or dried cranberries on top of the avocado side of each cracker for eyes.
5. Cut or break a banana chip in half and place both below the eyes on the cracker to make the parrot's beak. The two halves will stand off the cracker.
6. Admire and eat!



Parrot Crackers

**Chef's Note:** We originally tried this with cream cheese and lime zest instead of avocado. We loved how the lime zest looked like real feathers and matched the collage work of illustrator, Susan L. Roth, but the lime zest had a wacky flavor so we went for the milder avocado!

### Create a Food Web!

1. Use *Parrots Over Puerto Rico* to make a list of all the plants and animals important to the Puerto Rican parrots existence in the book. The list should include: red-tailed hawks, humans, black rats, honeybees, Puerto Rican parrots, pearly-eyed thrashers, and sierra palm trees.
2. Label which of these is a predator of, competitor to, and food source for the Puerto Rican parrot.

More resources for *Parrots Over Puerto Rico* and ideas for your summer adventures:

- [Lesson plan using \*Parrots Over Puerto Rico\* and \*Puffling Patrol\*](#)
- [Interview with authors, Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore, on the making of \*Parrots Over Puerto Rico\*](#)
- [Outdoor concerts!](#)
- [National and state parks!](#)
- [Ballparks!](#)
- [Beaches!](#)

