

Wild About Conservation

The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has partnered with Bolles Middle School Bartram Campus Grade 6 advisories on a new program about conservation and biodiversity.

Connecting Classrooms to Conservation will allow students to understand biodiversity and the issues wild places and wildlife are currently face. The six advisor groups will each be assigned a specific geographic area — Africa, Asia, Florida and South America — and species to research and try to conserve.

Jacksonville Zoo Educator Emily Blum launched the program on Oct. 4 with the aid of Gomez, the orange-winged Amazon parrot who serves as an animal ambassador for the zoo. Blum and Gomez visited with sixth graders in Betsy Body and Lauren Boswell's science classes and Blum fielded students' questions about Gomez as she shared information about his species.

Sixth grade students later visited the zoo on Oct. 30 to continue learning about their assigned regions and get a closer look at some of the various species they could select as they continued to work through the program.