

# Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens

## Education Department

### Culture

1. What are superstitions? Which animal was once protected by superstitions?  
A belief or practice resulting from ignorance, fear of the unknown. Bongo
2. What is the Kori bustard called in the language of Afrikaans? What does this name mean?  
How do you think this bird got its name?  
“Gompou” or “gum-eating bird” because it has been observed eating the gum of the Acacia tree.
3. Where does the word “crane” come from and why is it appropriate for these birds?  
Celtic word “garan” which means “calling” or “crying out”. These birds have loud calls.
4. What do some cultures believe about the crane?  
The souls of the dead ride into heaven on the back of a crane
5. Where did the word heron come from and what does it mean?  
Greek word “krizein” and means to “cry out” or “shriek”
6. Where does the word duck come from and what does it mean?  
Latin word “urino” and means “to dive”
7. How did the “white” rhino get its name?  
From the Dutch word “weit” which actually means “wide”. They have wide lips for grazing.
8. What did the Greeks call the zebra and why?  
“Hippotigris”, because the Greeks thought the zebra was a cross between a horse and a tiger.
9. What is one of the most dangerous mammals in Africa and why?  
Cape buffalo because it is known to attack humans
10. If you live in northern Africa, what might you want to avoid raising on your property so you don’t invite Egyptian cobras to visit and why?  
Chickens because cobras are known to raid chicken houses.
11. Which cultures honor or revere the cobra? Pick one culture and explain how it honors the cobra.  
Ancient Egyptians – supports the sun, Indian (as in country of India) – the hood was used to shade a sleeping Buddha so Buddha blessed it by touching it on either side of its hood, West African – the shed is believed to be linked to the cycle of the moon, perpetual youth and immortality.
12. Why do some Africans call the African bullfrog “Green Giant” or Walking Stomach”?  
They are large, green and eat just about anything.
13. Are bats blind?  
No, they see just as well as you and me.
14. Where did the word “bat” come from and what does it mean?  
Middle English “bake” which means to “flutter”
15. How do some cultures view bats?  
In Japan, it is the symbol of happiness; in China, the bat is part of a symbol for good fortune and long life; other cultures view them as bringers of evil and destruction.
16. What does the bird name “bustard” mean? Where would you find these birds?  
Roughly means the “the bird that walks”; on the ground
17. Why might cattle ranchers and golf course designers want Hadada Ibis around?  
Eat a lot of pests
18. Instead of destroying forests, what might some African farmers do to make a living while helping to protect forests?  
Beekeeping – promotes healthy forests and brings in a good income

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