

History of Zoos

Here is a presentation about zoos and their history. You might like to draw up your own timeline or cut out the pictures at the end to help you

Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia

- around **2500 BC**. in Egypt, at a place called Saqqara, a zoo has been found, where exotic animals such as antelopes, baboons, hyenas, cheetahs, cranes, storks and falcons were likely kept.

China

- In China, between **2000-1000 BC**, parks were created that had walled enclosures that also kept a menagerie of animals.
- In the Han Dynasty, late in the 1st millennium BC (**around 200 BC**), records show private menageries were kept, including birds, bears, tigers, alligators, rhinoceroses, deer, and elephants.

In the **8th century**, Emperor Charlemagne received gifts from the monarchs of Africa and Asia in the form of exotic animals, such as elephants.



William the conqueror

- William the conqueror kept a small collection of animals.
- In the **1100s**, his son Henry I maintained and enlarged the menagerie, keeping camels, leopards, lions, lynxes, owls, and even a porcupine.
- In the **13th century**, gifts were added to the royal menagerie, such as 3 leopards from Emperor Frederick II, a white bear from the ruler of Norway, and an elephant from the ruler of France.

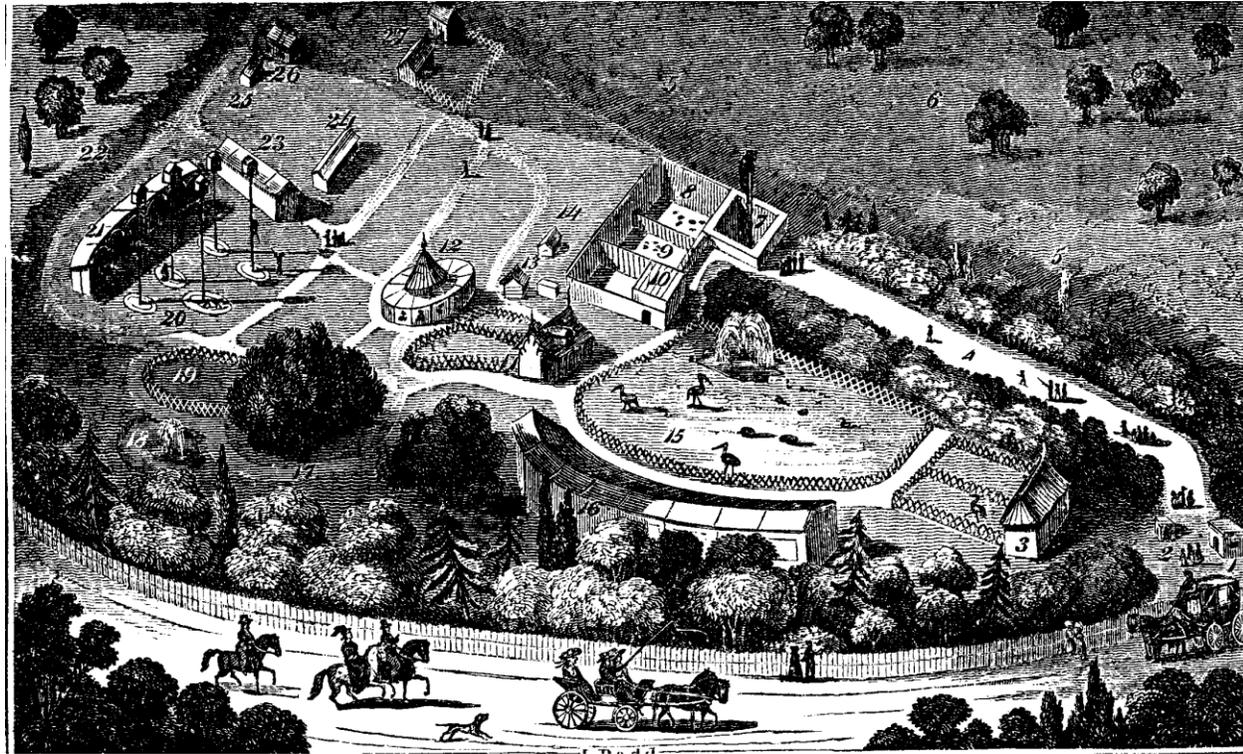
In the 1500's during her reign, Elizabeth I, moved descendants of leopards that were once owned by Henry III to create one of the first public animal displays. They were moved the to what became known as the Lion Tower in the western entrance of the Tower of London.



In the **late 1600s**, the menagerie at Versailles was built as a pleasure garden. Exotic animals were kept in enclosures



The first zoo created only for scientific purposes was the London Zoo in 1828



In 1831, the Dublin Zoo was created for the medical study of animals



In 1860 the Central Park Zoo was the first built in the United States



Zoos today



Timeline for the History of the Zoo

