

Activity/Worksheet: Animal Ethogram

Grade: 2-3

Location/Length of Time: Saginaw Children's Zoo, 5 minute observation period, 15 minutes for worksheet/discussion

Standards/Assessment Anchors:

- 1-LS1-2
- 2-LS4-1
- 1-LS1-1
- LS1.C
- ESS3.A

Materials:

- 1 worksheet per student/small group of students
- 1 writing utensil per student/small group of students
- Stopwatch, phone, timer, or watch per group of students

Instructions

Pick an animal or group of animals to observe for 5 minutes. Have the students write down everything that animal does within the 5 minute time period as well as a small description of each behavior. (Ex: Sitting – animal was resting with its butt touching the ground.) Have them describe the behavior as if talking to someone who couldn't see the animal at all and had never seen one before.

After the 5 minutes is up, have the students answer the two follow-up questions. Discuss how the behaviors they saw might help the animals conserve energy, get water or food, or evade predators. Discuss how animals may exhibit different behaviors in different circumstances and how changes to an animal's environment can have an impact on how they behave.

Bonus: Divide students into small groups. Have each group watch the same animal for different 5-minute time periods. Compare and contrast the behaviors that were observed by each group.

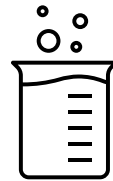
## Zoo Animal Ethogram



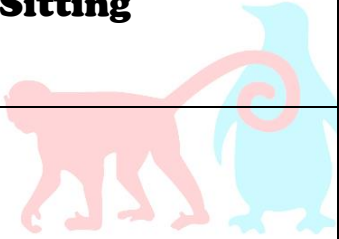
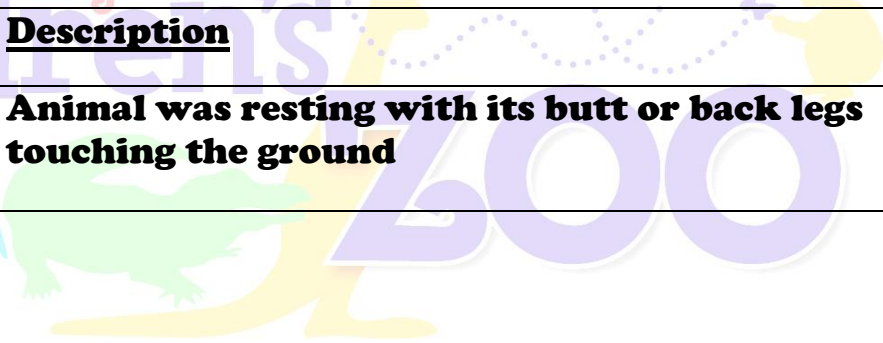
All animals need to have food, water, and shelter. Since animals come in all shapes and sizes and live in many different places, the way different animals get the things they need to live can be very different. The way an animal acts, or its **behavior**, is one way that animals survive. You don't even need to go on a safari to study animals, you can study animal behavior right here in the zoo!

One thing scientists do to study animal behavior is to make an **ethogram**. An ethogram is a list of all the things an animal does. This can help scientists learn how animals act and how they act might change due to things in their environment.

Pick an animal in the zoo and observe the animal for 5 minutes. Write down what the animal does for 5 minutes and how you would describe what it did to a friend that wasn't at the zoo with you today. Then answer the questions below.



**Animal:**

<u>Behavior</u>	<u>Description</u>
Sitting	Animal was resting with its butt or back legs touching the ground
	

Pick one thing you saw your animal do. How do you think that would help that animal get food, water, or shelter in the wild?

Do you think everything you saw today was everything that animal does during its life? Why or why not?

## Zoo Animal Ethogram-Sample Worksheet



All animals need to have food, water, and shelter. Since animals come in all shapes and sizes and live in many different places, the way different animals get the things they need to live can be very different. The way an animal acts, or its **behavior**, is one way that animals survive. You don't even need to go on a safari to study animals, you can study animal behavior right here in the zoo!

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Pick an animal in the zoo and observe the animal for 5 minutes. Write down what the animal does for 5 minutes and how you would describe what it did to a friend that wasn't at the zoo with you today. Then answer the questions below.



**Animal:** Goat

<u>Behavior</u>	<u>Description</u>
Sitting	Animal was resting with its butt or back legs touching the ground
Standing	Goat had 4 feet on the floor
Eating	Goat was chewing or had hay in its mouth
Head-butt	Goat was hitting head against another goat's head
Climbing	Goat was walking up wooden playground in yard

**Pick one thing you saw your animal do. How do you think that would help that animal get food, water, or shelter in the wild?**

I saw the goat climb a playground. In the wild they could climb to get food they couldn't reach from the ground.

**Do you think everything you saw today was everything that animal does during its life? Why or why not?**

No, because I do different things at different times. I can't do everything in 5 minutes.

No, because they might have to do something different to get food or run away from another animal.