



ANIMAL ANTICS
9th Grade through 12th Grade
Post-Zoo
Ethogram Lesson and Teacher Information



Objective:

- Recognize and identify animal behavior
- Use the Scientific Method
- Infer and make connections between the scientific process and purpose in observing animal behavior

Essential Question?:

What can I learn from observing animals in the Zoo?

Vocabulary:

Scan Sampling
Behavior
Hypothesis

Instantaneous Sampling
Ethogram

Behavioral Sampling
Ethology

Materials:

- Graph paper or Excel
- Paper or Computer to write up report

Post-Zoo Activity:

Students will write up a lab report on their findings using the Scientific Method. The lab report will include the following:

- Title
- Introduction – Information student researched about the animal.
- Question and Hypothesis – What you wanted to find out and what you hypothesized.
- Data Collection/Method to test your Hypothesis - How you decided to set up the research component and why.
- Analyze Results – Show data through a graph or chart to demonstrate how the results answer your question and whether or not your results support your hypothesis.
- Conclusion – Explain your results further. Discuss the lab itself. What does this information provide? What does the graph tell you about your animal? Does this information answer your question and support your hypothesis? Explain. Is this a representative sample? Why or why not? How often should you be making observations? What would you change in this experiment? What would you make sure to include in your next experiment? What were some difficulties or challenges you discovered? How could this information be useful in the real world?

Extensions:

1. While students are in the Zoo, have them split into groups. Each group will collect data using a different method of sampling (scan, instantaneous or behavior). When you return to class discuss challenges and benefits to each style of sampling. Discuss the considerations that need to be made when deciding the type of sampling that is most appropriate. As a review, discuss how the question and hypothesis are very important in determining the type of sampling you use.
2. Interview/research a graduate student or biologist that studies animals. Find out the types of methods they use to study behavior. How is this different? What is the same?