

Observation Station

Name(s): _____

Ethology is the study of natural animal behavior. Scientists use this method as a way to understand animal behavior as it relates to adaptive strategies, reproductive strategies, and energy requirements. An ethogram is a catalog or inventory of all behaviors or actions exhibited by an animal used in the study of ethology.

Using the charts provided, fill in the information while you observe a habitat and its residents. Focus on a particular animal in that habitat to complete the ethogram data. Taking pictures and video of the observed habitat and focal animal will be useful for your final presentation.

Vital Information

Location:	
Date and Time:	
Habitat Description:	
Animal(s) Observed:	
Weather Conditions:	
Start / End Time:	Start: End:
Total Observation Time:	

Ethogram

Animal Observing: _____

[illegible]

Other interesting observations:

Using your collected data, calculate the percentage of time the focal animal spent on each behavior:

Behavior	Total Time Spent	Percentage of Total Time

Using the data you have collected, you will present your findings to the class. Make sure to include some pictures and/or video of your habitat and focal animal you observed as well as the answers to the following questions.

1. Which activities did your animal do
 - a. For the longest period of time?
 - b. Most frequently?
 - c. Least frequently?
2. What did you notice when you were trying to classify behavioral activities into broad categories?
3. Why do you think you should collect data at
 - d. The same time of day?
 - e. The same time of the year?
4. How do you think your animal's activity would change if the weather were different?
5. How does your animal use this area as a habitat? (What does it do while it is there?)
6. Discuss how you think that a change in the habitat can affect the survival of your organism and/or its entire species?

Include other information that you consider interesting and important.