

What is an ethogram?

An ethogram is a tool used by scientists to observe and record the behaviors of animals, both under human care and in the wild. This tool can be used to learn more about animals and to track animal welfare and health.

PART 1: Make Observations and Collect Data

1. Select an animal to observe (please note, you will be tracking the behaviors of the same individual for the whole ethogram). You can choose to collect data on a pet or you can watch animals via the following live webcams:
 - a. Oregon Coast Aquarium Sea Otter Cam - <https://aquarium.org/otter-cam/>
Sea bird (24 hours) and shark cams (8 AM – 8 PM) are also available here.
 - b. Monterey Bay Aquarium Cams – <https://montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams>
We recommend:
 - i. Sea Otter Cam (7 AM – 7 PM)
 - ii. Penguin Cam (7 AM – 5 PM)
 - c. Full list of webcams - <https://www.earthcam.com/events/animalcams/> (includes cams from zoos all over the world!)
2. If not familiar with your focal animal, spend approximately one minute watching your animal to familiarize yourself with their markings (especially if you are observing a zoo animal that may move in and out of view).
3. Spend approximately five minutes observing, researching, and thinking of likely behaviors for this type of animal, then list and describe the potential behaviors in the Behavior Glossary below.
4. Set and start your timer for 10 minutes. Collect data on your focal animal, checking off the animal's current behavior in the data table every 30 seconds (see table on page 2). Note: You should have 20 observations when you are finished with your data collection.

Behavior Glossary

List the different animal behaviors you expect to observe, and a short description of each. Include at least 6 different behaviors.

PART 2: Analyzing and Interpreting Results

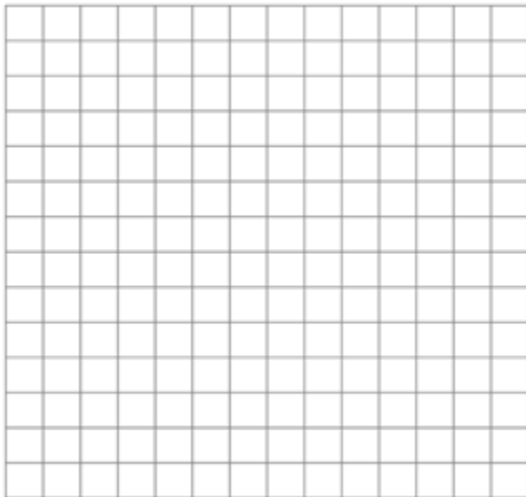
To make your data easier to understand, plot your observations in a bar graph using the grid on the left, and in a pie chart using the circle on the right.

Bar Graph (left side): At the bottom of the graph (x-axis), write the different behaviors so that each behavior is under its own *square*. On the left side of the graph (y-axis), write numbers from 0 to 14 so that each number is next to its own horizontal *line*. Count the number of check marks in your data table for each behavior, and color in that many squares above the correct behavior in the grid. What can you tell from looking at this bar graph?

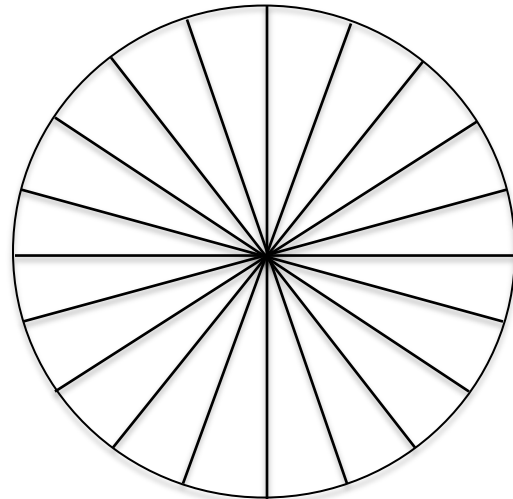
Pie Chart (right side): Choose a different color for each behavior. Count the number of check marks in your data table for each behavior, and color in that many slices of the pie chart (all next to each other) with the color you chose for that behavior. Label each differently colored section of the pie chart with the behavior it represents. What can you tell from looking at this pie chart?

Do the two graphs tell you different things about the animal's behavior? Is one easier to make? Is one easier to read?

Bar Graph



Pie Chart



PART 3: Summarize Your Results

- What patterns did you observe in your animal's behavior? What behavior did it do most often? What things might cause these behaviors/patterns?
- What was challenging about observing and collecting data on your animal? Is there anything you could do to improve your methods in future investigations?
- After completing this activity, what questions do you now have about your focal animal and its habitat?