Ethogram Datasheet

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/
    b. Monterey Bay Aquarium Cams - https://montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams (some suggested cams are listed below)
        i. Sea Otter Cam
        ii. Penguin Cam
    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 briefly 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 current behavior at one-minute increments in the data table (pg. 2). Note: You should have 10 observations when you are finished data collection.
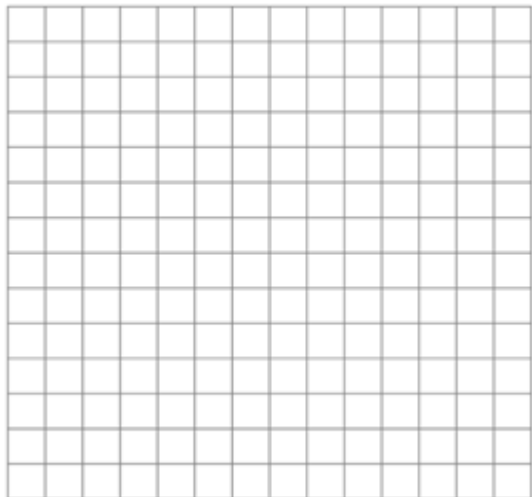
Behavior Glossary

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

Behavior	1 min	2 min	3 min	4 min	5 min	6 min	7 min	8 min	9 min	10 min

PART 2: Analyzing and Interpreting Results

In the grid below, use graphs, charts, or other visual representations to make your data easier to understand. Be sure to label each part of your graph. Suggestion: For a histogram, place behavior types on the x-axis (horizontal) and number of observations on the y-axis (vertical).

PART 3: Summarize Your Results

- Report and summarize the results of your investigation. Note any patterns you observed. What factors might be impacting the behavior of the animal observed?
- Review your investigation for errors in measurement or bias in observations. Explain possible challenges or limitations in your methods and suggest changes to methods to improve future investigations.
- After completing this activity, what questions do you now have about your focal animal and their habitat?