

ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR OBSERVATION/ETHOGRAM CHART

Ethogram charts can help zoologists create a picture of normal animal behaviour. The data from ethogram charts can be used as a valuable basis for further research into animals and their environment. Ethogram charts can be used in the animals' natural environment or within zoos.

Observe the video clips carefully, perhaps more than once and pause to take notes. Write down all the animal behaviours that you observe. It doesn't matter how small the behaviour is. For a zoologist rich data may be found within what we think are insignificant animal behaviours. Note any itching, pawing, noises, social interaction, climbing, eating, stretching, rolling, sleeping, ear twitching etc.

Video clip 1

Observe [this clip](#) from National Geographic featuring lions (please note there is a short scene of lions eating which some younger viewers may find distressing. Feel free to source a different video clip if necessary) If you would rather observe the behaviour of your 3 chosen animals then try and source some video clips online.

Behaviours observed	What I think are the reasons for the observed behaviours (there's no right or wrong answers)
<i>Eg Lion rolled over on the ground</i>	<i>Eg The lion is very relaxed and sleepy, maybe it had just eaten a big lunch!</i>

Video clip 2

Observe this [video clip](#) of giraffes at Whipsnade Zoo:

Behaviours observed	What I think are the reasons for the

	observed behaviours (there's no right or wrong answers)
<i>Eg Lion rolled over on the ground</i>	<i>Eg The lion is very relaxed and sleepy, maybe it had just eaten a big lunch!</i>

Video clip 3

Observe this [video clip](#) from BBC's deadly sixty featuring gorillas

Behaviours observed	What I think are the reasons for the observed behaviours (there's no right or wrong answers)
<i>Eg Lion rolled over on the ground</i>	<i>Eg The lion is very relaxed and sleepy, maybe it had just eaten a big lunch!</i>

If you wanted to take this activity further for another day, then you could prepare a powerpoint presentation or report featuring the animal behaviours. Or you could create a

research poster chart. Posters are commonly used by scientists to communicate their ideas in a quick, simple way. Another idea is to compose a short story or comic strip about one of the animals you observed, including examples of their natural behaviour within the story. Alternatively you could prepare a tour guide 'talk' about the animal, just like the ones zoos frequently have throughout the day for visitors. Prepare an information poster that locates where in the world your animal originates from and any other interesting information visitors would like to read. Treat your family to the talk!