

Animal Observation

(How to Watch Wildlife)



The first step to successful observation is learning to recognize **individual** animals. Refer to the **Ident-a-Chimp** activity to learn how to recognize individual chimpanzees.

Once you know the individuals, you can begin observing what they do. Since it is difficult to watch even one animal constantly throughout the day, different sampling techniques are used. For instance, the chimpanzees at Gombe are followed for 12 hours a day and their actions are recorded at 15 minute intervals.

Instructions

Print out a copy of the behavior data record sheet on page 2 of this activity, then go online along with researcher Elizabeth Vinson Lonsdorf to follow chimps and learn how to observe their behavior.

www.discoverchimpanzees.org/elearn

After you watch a behavior, compare what you saw with what a professional researcher observed by reading the instructions following each video.

Try This, Too!

Observe a single animal of your choice for a total of 10, 20, 30, or more hours. This can be broken down into half hour or hour sessions.

Did You Know...

Jane Goodall and her team have logged in **more than 175,000 hours** watching chimpanzees at Gombe!

Some of their most important discoveries weren't made until they had logged many years of observation.

Related Activities

How to Track Wildlife
Chimpanzee Territorial Behavior
Learn How to Speak Chimpanzee
Ident-a-Chimp

