

# Animal Adaptations

## ANIMAL BEHAVIOR STUDY

### WHAT IS BEHAVIOR?

“Behavior is defined as action or reaction under specific circumstances.”

### BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Imagine that you are watching someone lie down on a bed, close their eyes, and start to breathe very regularly. What behavior might you be watching?

### TYPES OF BEHAVIORS

An animal’s behavior can assist an animal to survive and enhance the use of their physical adaptations. In this activity, you will get to observe and record behavior that you see an animal do and think about how that behavior helps the animal.

In studying animal behavior, it is very important to carefully define what it is you are seeing. This is important because a clear definition and description will tell people exactly what you are recording (your data!!!!) in terms of the animals’ behavior.

Although there are many, many kinds of behavior that people can observe, we’re going to look at five specific kinds of behavior.

1. **Movement** (Locomotion): How does the animal move?
2. **Social Interaction**: What does the animal do with the group or a person?
3. **Resting**: What does it mean for the animal to be resting?
4. **Eating/Drinking**
5. **Communication**: Communication behaviors can help animals find mates, establish dominance, defend territory, coordinate group behavior, and care for young; examples include signals, which can include visual; auditory, or sound-based; chemical, involving pheromones; or tactile, touch-based, cues.

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## ANIMAL OBSERVATION DATA SHEET

### WHAT BEHAVIORS DO YOU SEE?

KIND OF ANIMAL: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME OF DAY: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>TYPE OF BEHAVIOR</b> 1. MOVEMENT 2. SOCIAL 3. RESTING 4. EATING/DRINKING 5. COMMUNICATION	<b>DESCRIPTION OF BEHAVIOR</b> WHAT IS THE ANIMAL DOING?  HOW DOES THIS BEHAVIOR HELP THE ANIMAL SURVIVE?	<b>INSTINCT OR LEARNED</b> DO YOU THINK THIS AN EXAMPLE OF INSTINCT OR LEARNED BEHAVIOR?	<b>BEHAVIOR AND PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS</b> WHAT PHYSICAL ADAPTATION MIGHT BE ENHANCED THROUGH THE BEHAVIOR YOU ARE OBSERVING?