



Animal Observation Project

Questions and Activities:

- Choose one animal at Marineland on which to do a physical and behavioral observation. You may pick any animal you'd like, but you must stick with that individual, so be sure you've identified a distinguishing characteristic about it that will help you keep it in view, even if it lives with a group of other animals that look just like it.

PHYSICAL OBSERVATION

- Draw your animal in the space below:

- Conclusions:
 - What distinguishing characteristic did you use to identify this animal?

 - What physical adaptations do you see on your animal that help it to survive in its environment? (Body shape? Coloration?)

 - What do you think these adaptations help the animal to do? (Avoid predators, Catch prey?)

BEHAVIORAL OBSERVATION

- Observe your animal for three minutes. Fill out the following behavioral observation chart. Put a check mark next to the behavior every time you see it. If you see any behaviors other than the ones listed, please add them in the blank spaces provided:

<u>BEHAVIOR SEEN</u>	<u>MINUTE 1</u>	<u>MINUTE 2</u>	<u>MINUTE 3</u>
Eating			
Chasing			
Hiding			
Playing			
Fighting			
Sleeping			

- Conclusions:
 - What behavior did you see your animal do the most?

 - What behavior did you see your animal do the least?

 - What kind of conclusions can you make from your observations? (Keep in mind that your three minute observation does not represent a full day of the animal's life.)

 - Do you think their behavior is different depending on time of day? Time of year? Weather?