

# A STEM in the Park

## Take Home Activity

# STEM

in the **PARK**™

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

## Inquiry Ethograms

*STEM Activities for Your Next Zoo Visit*

### *Inquiry Ethograms*

Let your child pretend to be a zookeeper for the day! Zookeepers at the zoo like to observe animals to answer questions about their behavior. Pick one of the questions below or create your own. Use the ethogram template on the back of this sheet to record tally marks of your observations every 30 seconds.

- Do primates prefer to spend time up high or down low in their exhibit? (Primate Forest)
- Do the Bonnethead (Hammerhead) Sharks swim clockwise or counterclockwise in their exhibit? (Sea Turtle tank)
- Do the elephants prefer to eat from up high or down low? (Elephants)
- Do the otters prefer to play in the water or on land? (Otters)
- Do the parakeets prefer to be closer to the path or further away? (Aviary)
- Do the orangutans or the gorillas prefer to play more? (Great Apes)
- Does the Salt Water Crocodile prefer to be completely under water or only partially? (Reptile House)
- Are the cougars using the trees for shelter or the hut? (Cougars)
- Do the wolves prefer to be all together or do they stay by themselves? (Wolves)
- Does your dog prefer to play fetch or tug of war? (At home)
- Does your cat prefer to sleep in things or on things (At home)
- Does your fish swim at the bottom or top of the tanks? (At home)



***Continued on back***

## ***Ethogram Template***

Research your chosen species and fill out the headings in the form below. Use a stopwatch and tick behaviors observed at 30s intervals.

Name of Observer \_\_\_\_\_ Species \_\_\_\_\_

Question \_\_\_\_\_

Time (mins)	Choice 1: _____	Choice 2: _____	Notes
0:30			
1:00			
1:30			
2:00			
2:30			
3:00			
3:30			
4:00			
4:30			
5:00			

What were the results of your observation?

***This activity is brought to you by the  
Toledo Zoo and Aquarium***

