

Animal Observation is a very important tool for zookeepers as well as wildlife biologists. We learn more about an animal's natural behaviors and how to better protect their natural habitats and how we can provide better care for the animals that are in our care.

Below are some journal ideas and prompts to use as you explore the virtual habitats of at John Ball Zoo.

Describe the animals in the habitat. How many are there? Are they all the same size? Can you describe and identify the differences? Use your best descriptive language to paint a picture of the animal(s) you are observing. Focus on the details – describe their body, feet, head, mouth, etc.

[illegible]



## John Ball Zoo Animal Observations



Write three "I wonder questions" about this animal.

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Sketch the animal below.

What other observations did you make? (What is the animal doing? Are there any enrichment toys you see? How are the animals interacting with each other or with their surroundings? Did anything about this animal surprise you? Do you have anything you still wonder about this animal after observing them for a while?)

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Observations focusing on physical ***adaptations***. A physical adaptation is something about an animal's anatomy (body) that is designed to help them survive.

Choose four different parts of the animal's body (Ex. Feet, limbs, claws, mouth, tail, coloration, fur, etc.) and describe them in detail. Explain what role each of these physical adaptations plays in animal's survival in it's natural habitat.

[illegible]



## John Ball Zoo Animal Observations



Sketch two or three of the animal's body parts (paws, ears, tail, etc.) in detail below.

What questions would you want to ask an expert about the animal?

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Observations focusing on ***habitats***. Examine the animal habitat closely and see if it has all the requirements of a good habitat for the animals – Food source? Water? Shelter? Enough space?

Describe this habitat well enough to create a picture in the mind of anyone who reads today's journal page. Include descriptions of the size, ground, shape, plants, etc.

[illegible]



## John Ball Zoo Animal Observations



Describe where you think this animal lives in the wild. Do you think the zoo habitat matches their natural habitat?

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Sketch the entire habitat and label it.

Conservation focused observations: Think about this animal living in its natural habitat. What dangers or threats might this animal face? Are humans playing a role to protect or destroy this animal's chances at survival in the wild?

Write about the things this animal would depend on for survival if it lived in its natural habitat. What would life be like there?

[illegible]





## John Ball Zoo Animal Observations



What challenges or threats does the animal face in the wild?

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What would you suggest that people do to protect the animal and its habitat.

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Write a letter to this animal. Pretend the animal can read. What would you want it to know?

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