

# LIVE CAM OBSERVATION – TEACHER NOTES: HOW TO USE THIS ACTIVITY

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## Before You Begin

- Test the QR codes and internet connection before students arrive.
- Preview the camera feeds to ensure they are appropriate and active.
- Decide whether students will work independently, with partners, or as a whole group.
- Gather clipboards, pencils, colored pencils, and a timer if needed.

## Suggested Time

- Quick Observation: 5–10 minutes
- Standard Lesson: 15–20 minutes
- Extended Investigation: 30–45 minutes with discussion and research

## Observation Tips for Students

You may want to model these before beginning:

- Look carefully for small details.
- Watch for changes over time.
- Use descriptive words.

If nothing seems to be happening, keep observing—animal behavior can change quickly. Scientists sometimes record “No activity observed,” and that is valuable information, too.

## Discussion Questions

After the observation, ask:

- What surprised you?
- Did anyone notice the same behavior?
- What questions do you still have?
- What evidence supports your observations?
- How might today’s weather affect the animals?
- What would you observe if you watched this camera again tomorrow?

## Extension Ideas

**Writing:** Write a diary entry from the animal’s perspective. Create a news report about what was observed. Write three “I wonder...” questions.

**Science:** Research the species observed. Investigate the habitat and climate of the camera location. Compare observations made at different times of day.

**Math:** Count and graph the number of animals observed. Create a tally chart of behaviors. Compare class data from multiple cameras.

**Art:** Sketch the habitat. Create a field journal page. Draw an animal adaptation that helped the species survive.

## Teacher Tip

*“The most important part of this activity isn’t seeing an animal perform something exciting—it’s helping students practice curiosity, patience, careful observation, and evidence-based thinking, just like real scientists.”*

## Encourage students to:

- Observe carefully before writing.
- Record only what they actually see or hear.
- Use evidence from their observations rather than guessing.
- Ask questions and wonder about what they notice.