# Home Safari

Great for Ages 5-10

## Knowledge:

- What is a behaviour? It is the way an animal interacts with other animals and the world around them.
- These behaviours can be very simple, like eating and sleeping, or much more complex.
- An important part of studying animals is studying their behaviours. It's how we learn a lot about them.
- Get the kids to list behaviours they do. There isn't a wrong answer here.
  - Eating
  - Sleeping
  - Reading
  - Watching TV
  - Playing with friends
  - And many more! Anything you do is a behaviour!
- One of the most important parts of observing an animal's behaviour is making sure you're not seen! If an animal knows someone is watching, they may behave differently, just like people would.



#### These resources are brought to you by:

We're going to make some binoculars, so that we can more easily watch the animals without being seen, and to feel like a true scientist!!

Camps, Clubs, and Youth CampsAndClubs@ocean.org (604) 659-3493

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#### Homemade Binoculars:

Materials:

- 2 toilet paper rolls
- A length of string or ribbon
- Construction paper and markers/coloured pencils for decoration
- Stapler or glue

Steps:

- Glue or staple the two toilet paper rolls together
- Decorate them
- Glue or staple the ribbon/string to either side of one end, creating a neck strap (or create holes with a hole punch and tie them)





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#### Home Safari:

Now that the kids have their own binoculars, they are ready to set out on their own safari. This can be done in several ways:

- Inside, if there is a pet that can be observed
- Outside in a yard (birds and bugs might be the most common)
- Through a window in an apartment (birds might be the most common)

Get the kids to choose an animal. They should observe it while trying not to be seen. This part might be a bit of a fun game, especially if it's a pet. While observing the animals, make notes of what they are doing. For pets, this might be something like playing or sleeping. Those are both important behaviours!

Try and observe the animals for several minutes, although this may be harder for younger kids. Adjust the length of time based on attention span.

More than one animal may be observed. You may see several different animals doing the same kinds of things.

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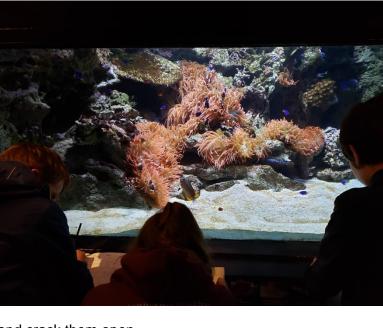
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### **Reflection:**

- What animals did you observe, and what did you see them do?
- Common behaviours:
  - Sleeping
  - Eating
  - Searching for food
  - Grooming/cleaning
    themselves
  - Playing
- Could what you saw fit into one of those categories? If not, what do you think it might've been doing?
- Some animals do more complex versions of behaviours. A crow may use their environment to their advantage to help get food.
  - Ex. dropping nuts on the



- road so cars run over them and crack them open
- There are even some animals that use tools! You should look online and see which ones you think are the coolest.
- Did you learn anything about the animals you watched, and their lives?
- What might a scientist learn about you, if you were being watched?
- What can we learn from watching an animal's behaviours?

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