Name: Date:

HANDS-ON LAB

Using an Ethogram

An ethogram is a catalogue of the types of behaviors an animal may perform. For example, in a 24-hour period male and female chimpanzees may display behaviors such as hunting, eating, sleeping, grooming, caring for young, and defending territory. After making initial observations, a scientist might make further observations and collect data to create a time budget of the observed behaviors. The time budget shows how much time individuals spend in each type of behavior. Among other uses, data from a time budget can be used to compare behavior patterns between males and females of the same species or members of different species. In this investigation, you will create an ethogram by observing an animal of your choice.

MATERIALS

- calculator
- classroom animal or pet
- ruler
- watch

PREDICT

How much time do animals spend on specific behaviors?

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PROCEDURE

1. Decide which animal you are going to study. You could also observe an animal in a zoo.
2. You must be able to observe active animal behavior for at least one hour. Conceal yourself so your presence does not influence its behaviors. For example, your family pet may respond to your presence and want attention.
3. Briefly describe the animal you will be observing in the Data Table below. Include size and any other relevant information. Describe what surroundings the animal is in and what lies within its reach, including food sources, water, shelter, or other animals.

DATA TABLE: OBSERVED BEHAVIOR OF _____

Animal Description	
Surroundings	
Predicted Behaviors	
Behaviors Observed	
Order of Behaviors	
Number of Times Behavior Occurs	
Length of Each Behavior	

4. Predict what types of behaviors the animal will engage in, and record them in the Data Table. For example, behaviors might include sleeping, eating, or playing.

5. Observe your animal for at least one hour. Record the specific behaviors of the animal, the order in which the animal carries out those behaviors, the number of times the behavior occurs, and the length of time of each behavior.

6. Pay very close attention. Some behaviors, such as staring or retreating, may not be noticeable unless you watch carefully. **Caution:** If the animal you are observing becomes agitated, stop observing it.

Name: **Date:**

ANALYZE

1. Make a list of the most common behaviors that your animal carried out. Was each behavior isolated or were some behaviors carried out in a specific order? Explain your answer.

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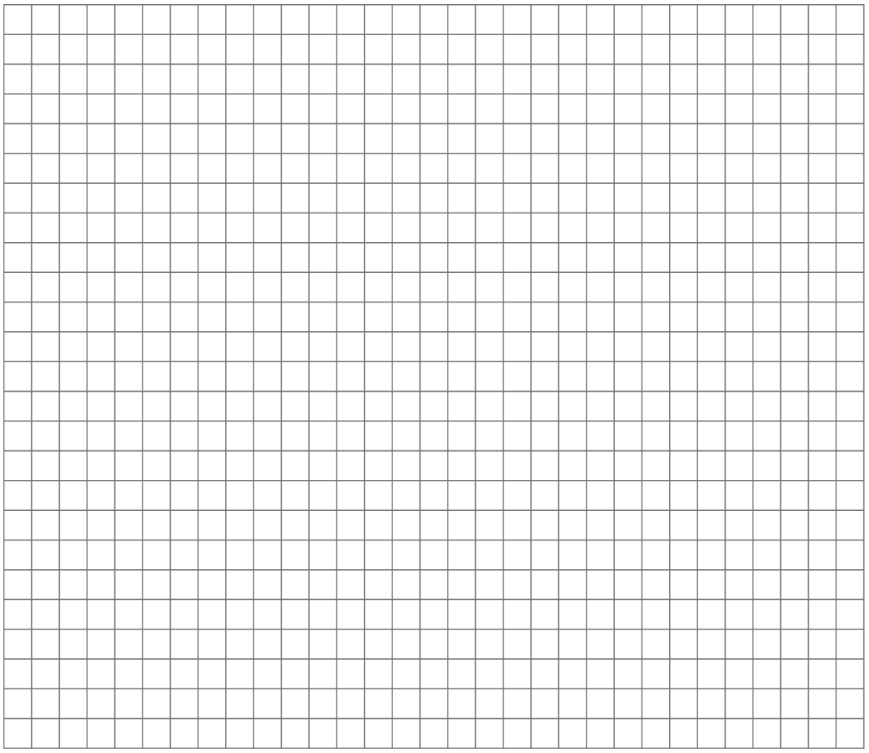
2. Determine the percentage of the total time spent in each behavior. Draw a bar graph to represent the data.



3. Use your bar graph to determine which behavior was the most frequent. Which behavior was least frequent? Explain why some behaviors might occur more frequently than others.

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