# Pronghorn 

## What is an Ethogram?

An ethogram is a tool often used by scientists when they are studying animal behavior. Ethograms list all of the behaviors that a scientist might notice when observing their focus animal.

Researchers at the L.A. Zoo use ethograms to help us better understand the animals at the zoo and in the wild.

## Materials:

Timer, Pencil, \& Ethogram chart (this sheet)

## Activity:

In this activity, you will be a research scientist observing pronghorn at the L.A. Zoo.

1. Select one pronghorn from the herd to observe. This will be your focus animal.
2. Watch the pronghorn observation video and every 30 seconds, mark $\checkmark$ the behavior you notice on the Pronghorn Ethogram.

Pronghorn Ethogram

## Behavior Key

Feeding:
The pronghorn is eating, foraging for food, or drinking water.

Resting:
The pronghorn is sitting, lying down, sleeping, or relaxing.

Moving:
The pronghorn is walking or running.

## Not Visible:

The pronghorn you are observing is off screen or not visible.

Other:
The pronghorn is doing something different than the behaviors listed.

| TIME | FEEDING | RESTING | MOVING | NOT VISIBLE | OTHER |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $0: 30$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathbf{1 : 0 0}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathbf{1 : 3 0}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| $2: 00$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathbf{2 : 3 0}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| $3: 00$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| $3: 30$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| $4: 00$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| $4: 30$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| $5: 00$ |  |  |  |  |  |

Describe the identifying features that helped you keep track of the pronghorn you were observing.

## Describe the pronghorn habitat.

Now that you have collected your data, it is time to analyze it.


## Plot Your Data

Using the data you recorded on your ethogram, count the number of times you observed a behavior and fill in the chart.

Example:


What behaviors did you observe most in your focus animal?

Do you think the pronghorn behavior would change if external factors, like weather or time of day, were different? How so?

If you were a research scientist, which animal would you choose to study and why?

