

# A KEEN EYE FOR OBSERVATION

**W**hen it comes to caring for the animals at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park, animal keepers must always keep a constant watch over species big and small, ensuring they are safe, healthy and stimulated. One of the most important skills an animal keeper needs in order to be successful is a keen eye for observation. By keeping a watchful eye on each animal, keepers are able to learn an individual animal's behavior and provide them with the care, food or medicine they may need.



## ACTIVITY

You can hone your animal observation skills by practicing in your own backyard or by visiting a local AZA\*-accredited zoo or aquarium.

\*Association of Zoos and Aquariums



Once you've chosen a location, find an animal and identify what it is:

- What do you know about that animal already? Is it a mammal, reptile or insect?
- If you are at a zoo or aquarium, is there anyone around to ask questions to learn more about their behavior?



Watch the chosen animal for a few minutes and take notes on their behaviors.

- What did you observe the animal doing? How does the animal move throughout its habitat?
- Does the animal have any unique physical characteristic to help you identify that individual?

Use the space below to fill out your notes and sketch a drawing of the animal you are observing!

### MY OBSERVATION NOTES:

Lined area for writing observation notes.

Large blank area for sketching a drawing of the animal.



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**ANIMAL KINGDOM**

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