



Animal Observers – Night Hunters

Young learners will ask questions and make predictions while investigating animals in Night Hunters.

Description: Adults help young learners observe live animals, ask related questions and make predictions.

Location at the Zoo: Night Hunters

Materials: One copy of this worksheet for each adult group leader.

Background: Encouraging young students to watch the world around them and ask questions about their interests will develop their learning skills for the future. It's okay if you don't know the answer to a question. The process of thinking of the questions is just as important. One idea is to keep a list of unanswered questions and research them together when back at school or home.

Activity: These activities will help students ask questions and make predictions about wildlife. Explain to the children that it's not about being right or wrong, but about thinking, exploring and finding out together.

1. Before entering the Night Hunters building, ask the students what they expect to see inside. Some example questions:

"Do you think it will be bright or dark inside?"

"What kinds of sounds will we hear?"

"Will we see lots of animals or just a few?"

Let's go find out together! Remind them to stay close to you while inside the building.

2. At the **spectacled owl** exhibit:

"What colors do you see on this bird?"

"Is this owl bigger or smaller than a robin?"

"How are this owl's eyes different from ours?"

3. At the **potto** and/or **bushbaby** exhibit:

"Is this animal in front of or behind the aardvark?"

"Do you think this animal is a good swimmer?"

"Does it look smooth or bumpy?"



Clouded Leopard

4. At any cat exhibit:

“How are this cat’s ears different than our ears?”

“What rhymes with *cat*?”

If sleeping... “What might this cat do when it wakes up in the future?”

5. At the bat exhibits:

“How many bats can you count?”

“How does a fruit bat look different than a vampire bat? How do they look the same?”

“Did we see more fruit bats or more vampire bats?”

6. At the python exhibit:

“How do you think the snake’s skin feels?” (Smooth, rough, hot, cold, etc.)

“What might happen if there was no glass in this window?”

“Who is heavier, you or this snake?”

7. Other examples:

“What would happen if we blew a whistle near this animal?”

“What would happen if we suddenly turned all the lights on?”

“What do you think this animal does when no one is around?”



Bearcat

Conclusion: Congratulate the students on sharing their ideas. Isn't it fun to explore and wonder about what's around us? There are so many neat things to discover about animals. As a group, decide on a few of their questions to look up back at home or at school.



Fossa