



K-12th: Animal Inquiry (Guided)

Students will practice the QUEST method of inquiry to answer a question about our Zoo animals

Description: We can make observations and create investigations about the animals at the Zoo.

Location at Zoo: Manatee Springs

Materials: Pencil & timer

Activity: We will use the QUEST method of inquiry to answer a question about our Zoo manatees

Inquiry #1: Manatee Springs! Head to Manatee Springs for the following inquiry.

Follow the steps below to complete an inquiry investigation about the Zoo's manatees

Q: Question and observe - do you see our manatees in their tank? We have been watching them swim around and wondered about where, within their tank, they spend the most time.

U: Uncover the comparative question - we turned our original question into the following comparative question: Are the manatees at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Manatee Springs habitat seen more frequently on the left or the right side of their tank during our observation?

E: Explore predictions - Based on what you know about manatees and what you have observed in your time in front of their habitat, on which side of the tank do YOU predict the manatees will spend more time?

S: Start an action plan - this is where you will form a plan and collect data! Decide as a group where the mid-point of the tank is located. Next, decide as a group how you will record the location of an animal when their body is part way in each side (ex. head and nose are on the left side, rest of body is on the right). Use the chart on the next page to collect data regarding the location of the manatees over a 5 minute observation period. Every 30 seconds, quickly scan the tank and put an "X" or hash mark in the box that matches the location of the manatees (one "X" per manatee). Wait until 30 seconds pass to make and record the next observation. Be sure to choose someone to be the timekeeper who will let the group know when it is time to make the next observation.

T: Think hard about your findings - Was your prediction supported by the data you collected? Can you use what you learned to come up with other questions? Who do you think might want to know about the results of this study?

GREAT JOB! Feel free to share your discoveries and results with us!

Data Sheet

Date:

Time frame of observation:

Time (min:sec)	Left Side	Right Side	Not Visible
00:00			
00:30			
1:00			
1:30			
2:00			
2:30			
3:00			
3:30			
4:00			
4:30			
5:00			