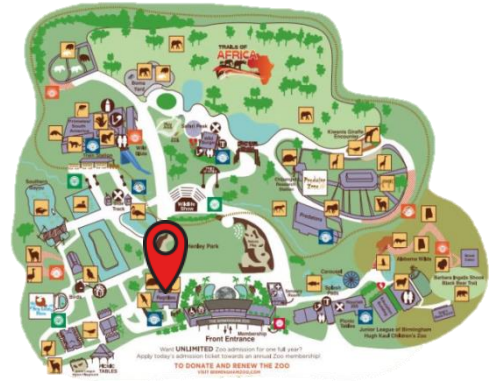# ANIMAL STEREOTYPES

Location: Reptile House

A **stereotype** is a specific image or idea associated with members of a group. For example, black cats have been stereotyped as a symbol of bad luck.

Fill out the information below to consider and explore animal stereotypes and the impacts they may have on an animal's survival.

Chosen Animal: _____

1. List six words that immediately come to mind when you think of this animal.

    _____   _____   _____

    _____   _____   _____

2. Are the words you wrote above mostly positive or negative? Why do you think you have that opinion?_____

    _____

    _____

3. Do the information on the sign and the look of the habitat support those ideas? Why do you think that is?_____

    _____

4. What are some examples from stories or history that portray this animal in a stereotypical way? (For example, an owl might always be portrayed as a wise animal.) ?_____

    _____

    _____

ETHOGRAM EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Ethograms are charts that record the behavior of an animal. Choose one animal to observe for five minutes. To make sure your information is accurate, stay in one spot without moving and set a timer to mark your observations at the correct time. Every 30 seconds, mark the behavior on the chart that you see below. Be sure to only mark one behavior at every time stamp, even if your animal is doing two things at once, like eating and walking. For example, after observing the animal for one minute the researcher might make one mark under feeding next to the 1:00 time box.

Researcher: _____ Species: _____

Behavior Definitions

Feeding: The animal is eating food or drinking water. This includes chewing.

Social: The animal is engaging in behaviors that appear friendly with another animal.

Self-Grooming: Engaging in grooming or other self-care activities.

Active: Any type of movement, whether it running, walking, or some other locomotion.

Inactive: Sleeping, just remaining still, not doing any apparent behavior.

Not Visible: Animal is off exhibit, or you are unable to see the animal you were observing.

Other: A behavior not described above.

Animal behavior hypothesis: _____

| Time	Feeding	Social	Self-Grooming	Active	Inactive	Not Visible	Other
0:30							
1:00							
1:30							
2:00							
2:30							
3:00							
3:30							
4:00							
4:30							
5:00							
Total							

Activity Budget

An **activity budget** shows the amount of time an animal spends doing activities, such as feeding, socializing, and self-grooming.

Add the total behaviors in each vertical column from the chart on the previous page and write each total beneath "Total behavior amount" on the chart below. Next find the percentage of each total amount to see the percentage of time doing each activity. Since you made ten observations throughout your five minute observation, multiply each total behavior amount by ten to get the percentage out of 100.

Behavior	Total behavior amount/10	Percent
Feeding		
Social		
Self-Grooming		
Active		
Inactive		
Not Visible		
Other		

Using the circle below, create a rough estimate pie chart summarizing data, label each section.
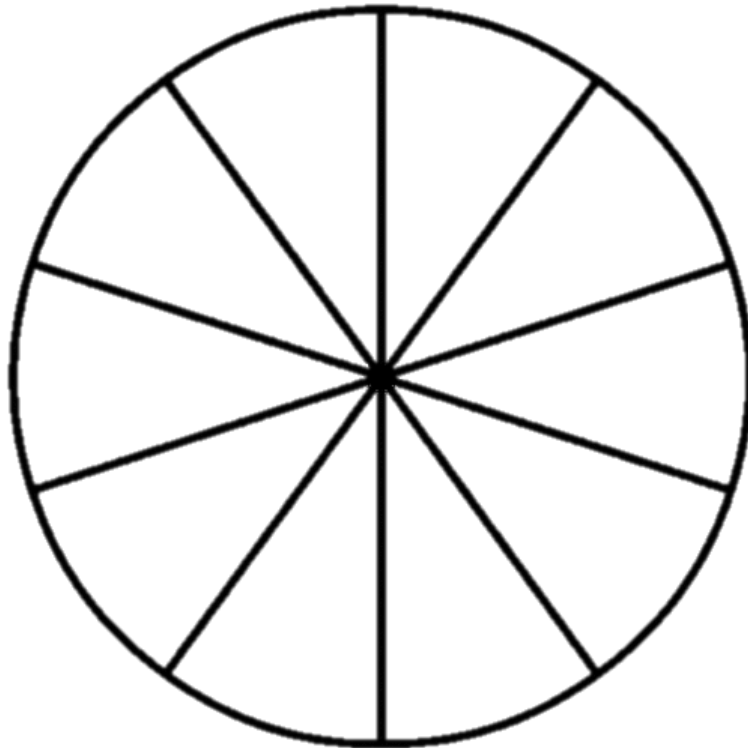
Was your hypothesis correct? Why or why not?

Why do you think conducting ethograms is important at a zoo and in the wild?

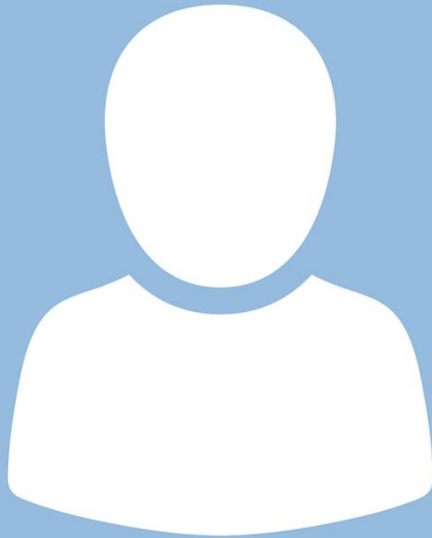# PASSION INTO CONSERVATION ACTION

Location: Jaguar Habitat

Whether they work in marketing, education, or animal care, the employees at the Birmingham Zoo are all passionate about conserving the natural world. The Passion into Conservation Action, or PiCA, program allows employees to submit conservation research projects that the Zoo will fund. The Birmingham Zoo has sent employees from across the zoo to 6 continents and over 15 countries.

Take a look at the PiCA program recipients along the back wall. Which project do you find the most interesting? Why?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Select three projects and list their benefits to conservation. What do you think "conservation" means?

_____

_____

_____

_____

If you had the opportunity to have a PiCA project, what would you do?

Fill out the graphic below:
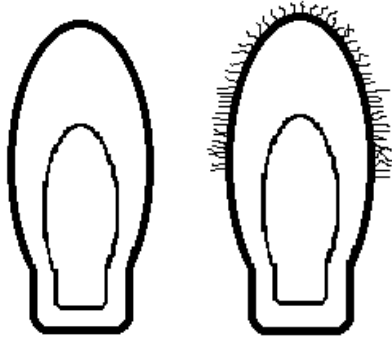
RHINO RIDDLE

There are five species of rhinoceroses on Earth. Use the chart below and follow the arrows to figure out which species we have at the Birmingham Zoo! Color in the arrow with your pencil that matches the right answer to describe the rhino you see, and then circle the correct species.

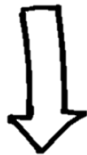Does the rhino have one horn or two horns?

One

Two

Does the rhino have hairy ears or smooth ears?

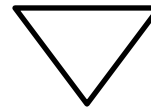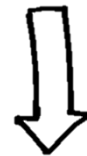Is the rhino covered with thick hair?

Yes

No

Sumatran Rhino

Does the rhino have a pointy lip like a triangle or round lip like a square?

Smooth

Hairy

Triangle

Square

Javan Rhino

Greater One-Horned Rhino

Black Rhino

White Rhino