



**New England
Aquarium**

Animal Behavior Aquarium Scavenger Hunt

To learn about animals, scientists need to make careful observations of their behaviors.

Choose one animal and observe it carefully.
Watch your animal for at least three minutes
and try to answer the questions below.

Draw the animal here

Your name

Name of animal

What habitat does this animal live in?

Observations

What did your animal do during the first minute?

What did your animal do during the second and third minutes?

What did the animal do when it met other animals?

What did the animal do that surprised you?

What did you see that you would have missed if you had observed for a shorter time?



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Animal Behavior Aquarium Scavenger Hunt - Applying the Concepts

After your field trip, use the completed scavenger hunt as a basis for discussion.

- What did students observe that surprised them?
- What do students think they might have missed if they had observed for only one minute?
- Discuss how scientists learn about animals. How much time would it take to observe an animal and become an expert on every aspect of its behavior?
- Is it easier to observe land animals or ocean animals?
- What are some of the problems marine biologists face in learning about ocean animals? What are some solutions?