Secret Animal

Choose any exhibit with a lot of different animals. The more active the animals are, the more challenging this activity will be.

1. Watch the exhibit for a while to get a sense of what kinds of behaviors the animals are exhibiting. Discuss with your group:

   a. What are the major types of behaviors?

   b. If there is one dominant type of behavior (such as swimming), are there different styles of that behavior? For example, would you describe a fish as "swimming," or could you say it is "drifting" "dashing," or "spinning"?

   c. Come up with some agreed-upon terms with your group for the different behaviors that you are seeing.

2. Pair up with another member of your group. To begin, one person will be the Observer and one person will be the Finder.

3. **Observer:** Choose one animal to focus on. Do not point out this animal to the Finder. Describe your animal's behavior (not its appearance!) to your Finder. Try to be as descriptive as possible, without pointing out a specific area of the exhibit (i.e. "It is swerving around some coral," not "It is swimming past that piece of coral.")

4. **Finder:** Listen closely to the Observer's description while watching the exhibit. When you think you have found the Observer's animal, describe it. Do not just guess, and do not point out the animal. Try to describe what you see it doing that makes you think it is the same animal.

5. Once you are pretty certain you have found the same animal, you may point the animal out to each other. Were you right? If so, discuss what helped you identify the animal. Were you incorrect? If so, discuss what words you could have used to describe the animal more clearly. Was it too hard or too easy? Try a different exhibit or a different kind of animal.

6. If you want to, switch Observer and Finder and try again.