

# Otter Observation Chart



## Engage and Reflect

Watch *Virtual Vitamin Z - Discover More About the Otters Who Live at the Detroit Zoo*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQNj2ROfUE>



## Skills

- Observation
- Recording data
- Analyzing and Interpreting Data



## Math Concepts / Standards

- Look for and make use of structure.

## NGSS Science and Engineering Practices

- Analyzing and interpreting data



## Experience

- 1-2 minutes per observation
- 1 or more people

Participants will take on the role of an ethologist, someone who studies animal behavior. Open a link to a live animal video feed (<https://detroitzoo.org/virtual-vitamin-z/>) or select a spot near a window or outside where you can observe wildlife. Choose an individual animal and record the time, and what you see the animal doing. Return multiple times during the day and continue making observations for several more days. Look for patterns in the data that you collect. What time of day is the animal usually active? When is the animal not visible?



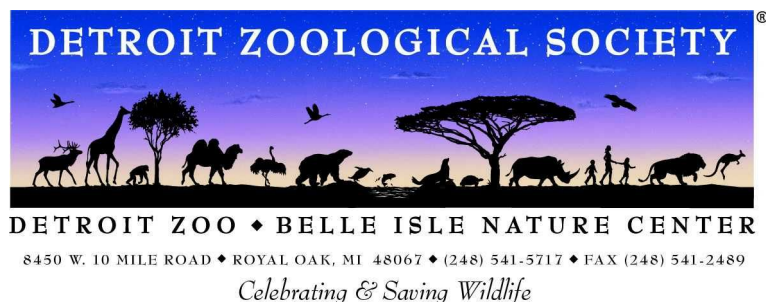
## Celebrating and Saving Wildlife

Closely observing animals builds understanding and reverence, helping us to appreciate and protect wildlife and wild places. .



## Take Action

Scientists needs your help! As you practice your observation skills, consider contributing to a citizen science project by collecting and recording data for scientists. Visit <https://www.zooniverse.org/> and select a project that you find interesting.



# Otter Observations

## Tools

Chart  
Pencil

*1 or more people*



## Directions

- Open the otter live camera - <https://detroitzoo.org/otter-live-cam/>
- Print out or make your own observation chart
- Mark down the time of your observation.
- If an otter is visible, mark which behavior you see him or her doing.
- If an otter is not visible, make a mark in the 'not visible' column.
- Check back often to see what the otters are doing.
- If you collect data over a period of several days, you can look at your data and see if there are times of day that otters are more or less likely to be active.

Notes - you can observe other animals by looking out your window or through other live camera feeds. For more Detroit Zoo live camera feeds, visit: <https://detroitzoo.org/virtual-vitamin-z/>. Record the time of day and the behaviors you see animal(s) doing. If you collect data for several days in a row, see if there are patterns during morning, noon and night on which animal(s) you see and what they are up to!

