



WILD Kids



K-3

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Why should we study wildlife?

People study wildlife to learn about how and where animals live.

A person that studies wildlife is called a research biologist.

By learning all they can about wildlife, research biologists find out if animals have the food, water, shelter and space they need. If not, research biologists can look for ways to help wildlife.

What can we learn?

How many there are

By counting the number of squirrel *middens* (places where squirrels hide pine cones), biologists can tell how many squirrels live in an area.



What they are doing

Tracks tell the story of where an animal has been. Tracks can also show if an animal was walking, resting, chasing prey or being chased.



What they are eating

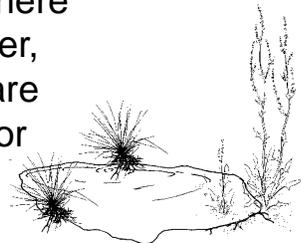
Biologists can tell what animals have been eating, by looking for nibbled plants and fruit.



Did you know biologists can also tell what an animal has been eating by looking at its *scat* (droppings)?

What they need

By studying animals and their habitats, biologists learn what animals need. If there is not enough water, new water holes are sometimes built for animals such as bighorn sheep.



You can do research too - just like a research biologist! To start, find a quiet place where you can watch wildlife. In the chart below, write down each animal you see. Then fill in the rest of the chart. We have given you an example to get you started.

(Write the name of your research study here.)

Your Name _____ Grade _____ Date _____

<u>What was it?</u>	<u>When? (time)</u>	<u>Where was it?</u>	<u>What was it doing?</u>
Ant	10:00 am	near office door	Carrying food to anthill
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Draw your study area on another sheet of paper. Include plants, buildings, paths, and anything else you see.

Try to do your study during different times of year. How does your study area look in summer, fall, spring, and winter? Did you see different animals? Were they doing different things?