



SeaWorld/Busch Gardens Zoological Careers

4-8 Classroom Activities

What's Your Reaction?

OBJECTIVE

Given an observation worksheet, an individual, and an object, the student will perform a behavioral experiment and interpret the results.

ACTION

1. Students complete this activity at home. Each student chooses a simple object they find at home (ball, book, soft toy, etc.) and presents it to a family member (the subject). The student records the subject's age and what the subject does with that object for a set time period (example: 3 minutes). Encourage students to use detail in their observations.
2. Include how the subject uses each of the five senses during the observation time and how the subject manipulates the object. If possible, assign students to be responsible for observing subjects in the following age categories:

1 year or younger	1 to 2 years old
2 to 3 years old	3 to 4 years old
4 to 5 years old	5 to 6 years old
6 to 10 years old	11 to 15 years old
16 to 20 years old	21 years or older
3. Have students summarize their data, and report back to the rest of the class. Discuss how development, experience, and ability with respect to age help determine behavior.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A comprehensive preventative medicine program is essential to maintaining the good health of animals at zoological parks. One component of this program is animal observation. Trainers and keepers observe animals each day, noting their behavior and activity level. Every animal has its own pattern of behaviors, depending on age and physical health. Humans also have person-specific behaviors, like drumming fingers on a table top, snapping and chewing gum, slouching in a chair, or craving chocolate. In addition, humans of different ages respond differently to the same object. They manipulate the object in a way that is most pleasing or reinforcing for them.

MATERIALS

Per student:

- copy of *What's Your Reaction* funsheet on page 3
- pencil
- clipboard or writing surface



How do the reactions of these subjects differ when they are presented with a book?

From *Animal Behavior and Training 4-8 Teacher's Guide*, a SeaWorld Publication.

Name _____

What's Your Reaction

Observation Funsheet

Date _____

Observer's name _____

Subject's name _____ age _____ M or F

Object _____

Complete the following about your observation:

Location description _____

Observation start time _____ a.m./p.m. end time _____ a.m./p.m.

Total observation time _____ minutes _____ seconds

Subject's response to object (be sure to include what senses the subject is using)
