

Journey into Nature from Home

Introduction: Many animals live on the ACR preserves. We invite you to explore the pictures taken by the wildlife cameras set up around two of ACR preserves. While viewing the pictures, think like a scientist. Scientists make sense of the world around them by noticing patterns in nature. Scientists know that “form follows function”. This means that the shape of an object has something to do with its use. For example, deer use their flat teeth for chewing plants and mountain lions use their sharp teeth for tearing flesh.

Instructions:

1. Print this activity.
2. Click on [this link](#) to explore the Martin Griffin Preserve trail camera photos. Scroll through the photos.
3. Using the table below, mark a tally each time you find one of the animals listed during the day or night. Mark another tally if the animal is in a group or alone.
4. Complete steps 2 - 4 for the Modini Preserve trail camera photos. [Click here to view photos.](#)
5. Complete the questions and deeper exploration activities after filling in the tables.

Martin Griffin Preserve - [ACR's Martin Griffin Preserve Trail Camera Photos](#)

Type of animal	Time of Day	Individual or Group
DEER	day:	alone:
	night:	group:
BOBCAT	day:	alone:
	night:	group:
GRAY FOX	day:	alone:
	night:	group:
SKUNK	day:	alone:
	night:	group:
GRAY SQUIRREL	day:	alone:
	night:	group:
COYOTE	day:	alone:
	night:	group:

Modini Preserve - [ACR's Modini Preserve Trail Camera Photos](#)

Type of animal	Time of Day	Individual or Group
DEER	day:	alone:
	night:	group:
BOBCAT	day:	alone:
	night:	group:
GRAY FOX	day:	alone:
	night:	group:
MOUNTAIN LION	day:	alone:
	night:	group:
BLACK BEAR	day:	alone:
	night:	group:
COYOTE	day:	alone:
	night:	group:
WILD BOAR	day:	alone:
	night:	group:

Questions:

1. Were there some animals seen *only* at night?
 - i. If so list them:

2. Were there some animals seen *only* during the day?
 - i. If so list them:

3. Which animals did you see at both preserves?

4. Have you seen any of these animals in your neighborhood?
 - a. If so which ones?

5. Which animals were *only* seen alone?

6. Did any photos surprise you? Was there anything unexpected?

DEEPER EXPLORATION

There are clues in the background of the photos that can tell you more about what is going on. Take another look and see if you notice the following:

The surroundings - Is it an open space or a forest?

The plant colors - green or brown? The color of the plants give you clues about the season.

The timestamp - is it dawn, midday, dusk, midnight?

Date stamp - what month is it?

EXTENSION

Pick two or three pictures from one of the preserves and make up a story about them.

After going through our photos, explore nature where you are - journal about it:

- Do you notice any animals in your neighborhood? Do you see: birds, Squirrels, Insects, or Spiders?
- Pick one of the wild animals in your neighborhood. What is it doing?
- Are any of the animals in your neighborhood the same as the ones on our preserves?
- If you set up a camera near your house do you think you might see more animals? Why or why not?