

# JAGUAR WATCH

## at Amazon and Beyond



*Summary: Doing this field observation activity, called an ethogram, you will observe and categorize the behavior of jaguars in a captive and controlled environment.*

### **Background:**

Jaguars are the largest and most powerful felines in the Americas. They are stocky, have a large head and short legs. Their fur is composed of brown clusters of spots called "rosettes." Jaguars are not only great climbers, but they also enjoy the water and are considered good swimmers.

Today the jaguar ranges from Central America to northern Argentina. Unfortunately, within the last fifty years, the jaguars range has greatly been reduced in Uruguay and much of Argentina. Due to years of hunting these animals, the jaguar has declined drastically in numbers. Presently, the human conflict for food and space has taken a greater toll on the jaguar population.

### **You will need:**

Watch or stop watch  
Pencil or pen

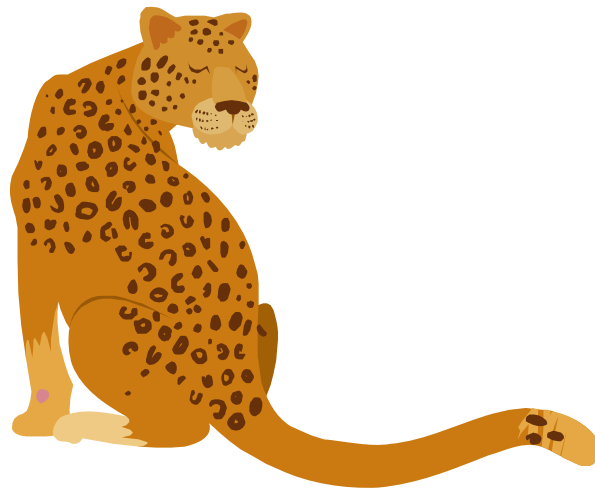
### **Procedure:**

1. Look over the **Jaguar Behavior list**.
2. Print out the entire activity and bring it with you to **Miami Metrozoo**.
3. Once arriving at Miami Metrozoo, head over to the new Amazon & Beyond exhibit and explore the **Cloud Forest**.
4. When you get to the Cloud Forest, make your way to the **Jaguar exhibit**.
5. Take a few minutes to **familiarize** yourself with the jaguars.
6. **Predict** which behavior you will see the most and which behavior you will see the least.
7. **Observe** the jaguars for a total of 5 minutes at 30 second intervals.

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8. **Record** by checking each of the behaviors of the jaguars during the specified period using the **Jaguar Ethogram Chart**. Once a particular behavior is seen, it does not need to be recorded again. Begin by writing the name of the observer, date, time, and weather condition. This information is important because the jaguars' behavior patterns may be influenced by, for example, specific weather and time conditions.
9. Use a **watch** or **stopwatch** to time the fixed 30 second interval observational period for the jaguars.
10. After completing the observations, **tally** the different behaviors. Was your prediction correct? Which behavior did you see the most? Which behavior did you see the least?





## Jaguar Behavior List

<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Description of Behavior</b>
Standing	Animal is alert, standing on four legs. Animal may move head side to side and/or sniff air.
Resting	Animal is lying or sitting, either awake or asleep.
Moving	Animal moves from place to place in its environment.
Climbing	Animal actively climbs up or down.
Grooming	Animal licks it self or its paw and rubs it over head, chews at fur, or shakes water off; or licks the fur of another animal.
Playing	Animal plays alone or with another animal in its environment.
Not visible	Animal is out of sight.
Other	Any other behavior not listed, such as drinking water.

# JAGUAR ETHOGRAM

## Chart



Observer \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Weather \_\_\_\_\_

Prior to start write your predictions on the bottom of the page.

Behavior	Start	:30	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30	5:00	Total
<b>Standing</b>												
<b>Resting</b>												
<b>Moving</b>												
<b>Climbing</b>												
<b>Grooming</b>												
<b>Playing</b>												
<b>Not visible</b>												
<b>Other</b>												



**Behavior you will see most:**

Prediction: \_\_\_\_\_

Observed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Behavior you will see least:**

Prediction: \_\_\_\_\_

Observed: \_\_\_\_\_