



Morrill Public Library Program:

Theme: Observing Animal Behavior

Book: My Life with the Chimpanzees by Dr. Jane Goodall

Learn about nature with the Nebraska Forest Service and Morrill Public Library! Watch the following videos featuring the first chapter of *My Life with the Chimpanzees* by Dr. Jane Goodall read aloud by Jack Hilgert, NFS Conservation Education Assistant. Then complete the activities described; printed instructions for the activities are included below.

Link to Video 1: Introduction and Story-Read-Aloud: <https://youtu.be/9KJu4J0yRJU>

Link to Video 2: Extending the Story, Instructions: <https://youtu.be/VzDvEgw0auI>

Activities:

How to make your own ethogram:

Materials:

- printer or plain paper, multiple sheets
- construction paper, one sheet
- stapler
- markers, other coloring supplies
- safety scissors

Instructions:

1. Take a handful of sheets of printer paper, depending on how many that you want in your ethogram. Place them in a stack and fold the whole stack in half, “hot-dog-style,” the long way across. Cut the stack along the fold with the safety scissors, or ask for help. This should result in two stacks of 4.25” by 11” paper, if using regular 8.5” by 11” paper.
2. Place the two stacks of plain paper on top of each other, and fold this whole stack in half from end to end. This should result in a single booklet sized 4.25” by 5.5”. Staple along the fold to create the binding for the ethogram notebook.
3. Fold the single sheet of construction paper in half “hot-dog-style” or long way across, this should end in a single 4.25” by 11” paper, if using 8.5” by 11” letter-sized paper. Take this long piece and fold it over the

outside of the booklet of plain paper to make a cover. Stable the construction paper cover along the binding to be sure it stays in place. This cover of construction paper should help keep the notes and observations in your notebook protected.

4. Write your name and “Ethogram” on the front cover of your booklet with the markers or other coloring utensils. Decorate and personalize the cover. Let your imagination run wild!

5. Now you have a pocket-sized ethogram notebook to write notes on the birds that you observe coming to your bird feeder. Remember, ethologists write down specific details when they observe animals. Each time you record an observation, write down the location, date, time, weather conditions, and any unique behavior you see when birds visit your feeder.

How to make a bird feeder:

Materials:

- paper plate
- cardboard toilet paper tube
- peanut butter or sunbutter
- bird seed, whole grain cereal, fruit
- butterknife

How to make a bird feeder (continued)

Instructions:

1. Spread what you will be using as the bird food across the paper plate. You can use birdseed, like in the video. If you do not have birdseed at home, you can use cereal (non sugary and without marshmallows) or small pieces of fruit (such as apples, pears, or berries).

2. Pick up the toilet paper tube and liberally spread peanut butter with the butterknife, or ask for help, across the whole outside of the tube. If you or someone in your family is allergic to peanuts, use sunbutter or honey.

3. Roll the peanut butter covered toilet paper tube over the food that you placed on the paper plate. Make sure the seeds, or other food items, stick to the tube.

5. Now you have a complete bird feeder! Hang the tube on a branch in a tree by putting the branch through the hole in the middle of the tube. If there are not any trees in your area, punch a hole in one part of the tube and use a string or fishing line to tie up your feeder. Just be sure there is somewhere birds can perch or sit nearby while they eat off the feeder.

What is ethology? What is an ethologist?

Ethology is the study of animal behavior. An ethologist is a scientist that studies animal behavior. Some ethologists study animals in laboratory settings while others observe animals in the wild. All ethologists make careful notes about the wildlife they watch in ethograms. By creating your own ethogram and studying birds outside your home, you can be an amateur ethologist!

Who is Jane Goodall? Why did we read a chapter from her autobiography?

Dr. Jane Goodall is a world-famous British Ethologist and Primatologist, a scientist who studies monkeys and apes. For most of her career, she studied Chimpanzees in the wild in Tanzania. Many of her discoveries led to changes in the way scientists view chimps and other animals. Perhaps her most famous observation was being the first scientist to observe chimps making and using tools in the wild. Although she studied animals that live far from Nebraska, her initial fascination was sparked by watching chickens and other animals at her family home as a child in rural England. You could grow up one day to be a great scientist just like Dr. Goodall.

Where can I learn more about Chimpanzees? Where can I see Chimpanzees in person?

Chimpanzees are an ape that live in central Africa. You learn more about them by checking out books about chimps and other wildlife from the Morrill Public Library!

Only a few miles east of Morrill is the Riverside Discovery Center in Scottsbluff. Accredited by the Association of Zoo and Aquariums, the zoo houses a small troop of Chimpanzees - which are the only chimps in the state of Nebraska. By visiting your local zoo you can not only see chimps in person, but learn more about them from zoo staff. Visit riversidediscoverycenter.org to learn more about this excellent local, community resource.

Where can I learn more about native, backyard Nebraska birds?

There are numerous print and online resources about North American and Nebraska birds. Check out a guidebook from the Morrill Public Library or visit these links to continue your learning. Remember to always have parental/guardian's permission and guidance when going online:

From the National Audubon Society:

Identification guide with bird song recordings: audubon.org/bird-guide

Youth at-home activities: audubon.org/get-outside/activities/audubon-for-kids

From Nebraska Game and Parks: List of Nebraska birds: birds.outdoornebraska.gov

Why are trees important to chimps, birds, and humans?

Trees are essential to many ecosystems, from the rainforests in Africa to even your own backyard. Without trees many species of animals, including chimps and backyard birds, could not survive. Trees provide essential food, shelter, shade, and more to many species. Trees also help provide oxygen that both humans and animals need to survive.

The Nebraska Forest Service's mission is "To enrich lives of Nebraska's citizens by protecting, restoring, and utilizing Nebraska's tree and forest resources."

Want to learn more about Nature this summer?

The Nebraska Forest Service is the state coordinating agency for Project Learning Tree and Project WET national environmental education curriculums. Through these excellent curriculums, we have links to engaging resources to continue learning and exploring throughout the summer.

From Project Learning Tree:

<https://www.plt.org/activities-for-families/>

Try these easy-to-follow activities to connect the children in your life to the outdoors and nature. PLT's Nature Activities for Families collection is made specifically for families with children ages 3 – 15. Get ideas on how to create meaningful memories with your family in your backyard, neighborhood park, or even indoors. They are a great resource to keep learning going during the summer, while also having fun with the whole family!

From Project WET:

<https://www.projectwet.org/distancelearning>

Project WET wants to ensure that water education continues for people of all ages, resulting in a suite of free and discounted resources that educators, parents and children can use to learn about water while meeting standards in math, language arts, science and even fine arts. Project WET hopes this helps educators and students continue learning and exploring during this pandemic. Check back weekly to view new Project WET resources!

Have questions about this or other Nebraska Forest Service education programming?

Feel free to contact us with any questions! Visit our website: <https://nfs.unl.edu/education> or contact Jack Hilgert, Conservation Education Assistant, at jack.hilgert@unl.edu. Contact us to learn more about all we have to offer with conservation and environmental education programming.