



## Socializing in the Savanna

### Mixed Species Area

The mixed-species area is a significant enrichment design feature of this space. Enrichment helps an animal practice its natural behavior in a zoo environment. This area allows animals to interact not only with their own species, but others, as they do in their natural habitats.

1. Put on your animal behavior researcher hat and observe the mixed species viewing area. Take special note of how the various animals are distributed in the area and sketch out their relative positions on your Giants of the Savanna Map.
2. Make a guess as to how the animals might group together in warm weather. How about in colder weather?
3. What features of the habitat affect how the species interact with each other?
4. What areas of the mixed-species habitat do you think giraffes are least likely to visit and why?
5. An ethogram is a catalog or table of all the different kinds of behavior or activity observed in an animal. Zoologists use ethograms to identify trends or changes in animal behavior. Complete the ethogram to help you observe the behaviors of the giraffes (and other animals). Do any of the observations surprise you? What are you wondering after making these observations?

Ethogram Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Start time: \_\_\_\_\_



Observe and record behaviors of two animals in the Savanna habitat. Start recording behaviors at the zero mark, then every 30 seconds until you reach the 4:30 minute mark. Only mark one behavior for each animal at a time or it will off-set your data. When finished, total the check marks for each column. Then, count the total number of check marks and find the percentage for each behavior. Analyze and discuss the data.

Time Interval (m:s)	Subject #	Stationary/Moving	Social Interaction		Eating/Drinking	Grooming/Preening	Enrichment	Other
			Same species	Other species				
0:00	1							
	2							
0:30	1							
	2							
1:00	1							
	2							
1:30	1							
	2							
2:00	1							
	2							
2:30	1							
	2							
3:00	1							
	2							
3:30	1							
	2							
4:00	1							
	2							
4:30	1							
	2							
<b>Column Total</b>								
Check Total								
<b>Column Total/Check Total</b>								
X100		%	%	%	%	%	%	%



## Giants of the Savanna Map

Mark your location on the map and then observe and pinpoint animals on the grid. Measure the angle between two animal locations using your location as the vertex.

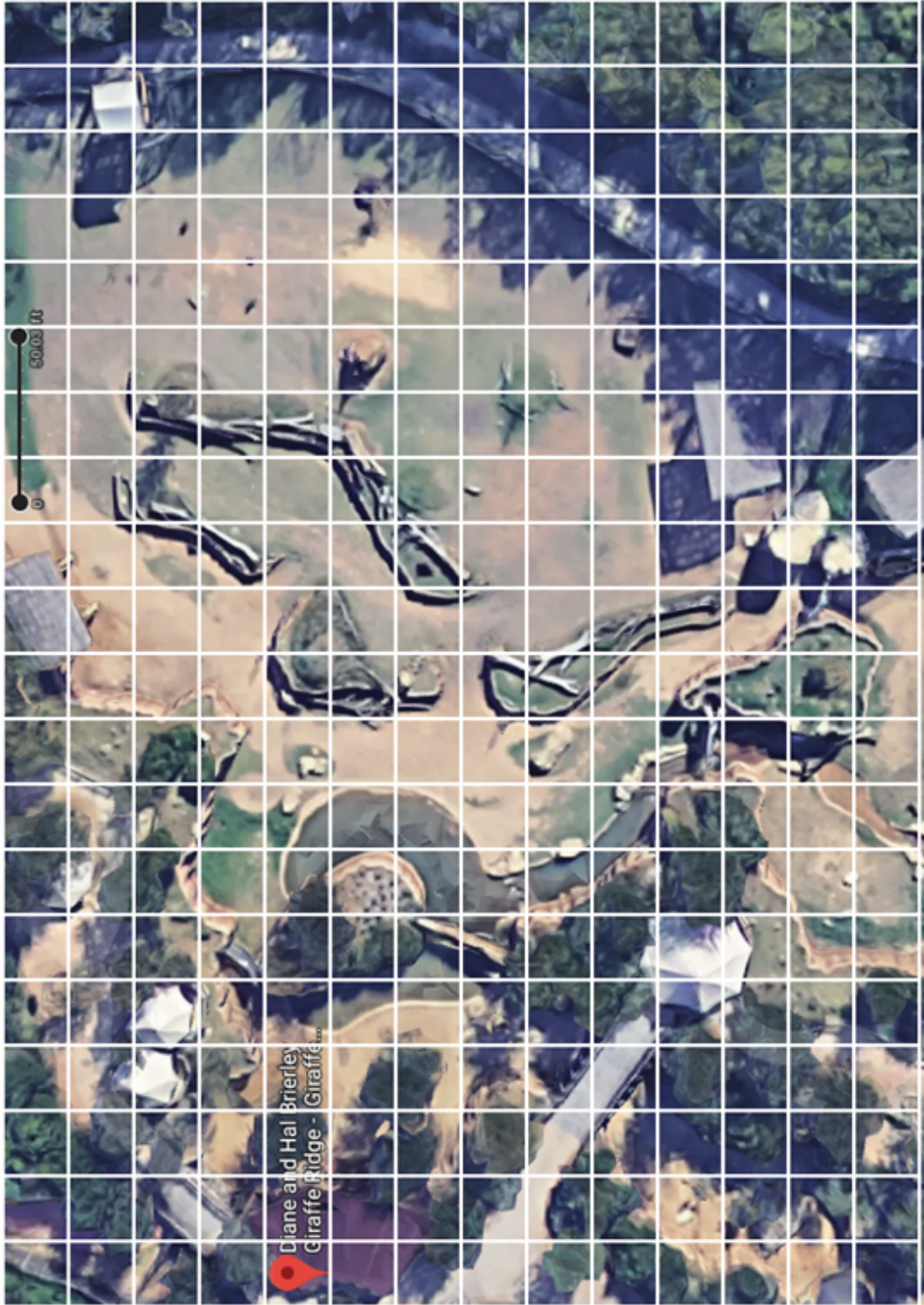
Track the movement of a single animal over time and determine the distance the animal travels, and the area the animal has covered.



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1. Put on your animal behavior researcher hat and observe the mixed species viewing area. Take special note of how the giraffes, kudu, ostriches, guinea fowl, and zebra are distributed in the area and sketch out their relative positions on your Giants of the Savanna Map.
2. Make a guess as to how the animals might group together in warm weather. How about in colder weather?

*Answers will vary.*

3. What features of the exhibit space affect how the species interact with each other?

*Answers will vary.*

4. What areas of the mixed-species exhibit space do you think giraffes are least likely to visit and why?

*Answers will vary.*

5. Complete the ethogram to help you observe the behaviors of the giraffes (and other animals). An ethogram is a catalog or table of all the different kinds of behavior or activity observed in an animal. Do any of the observations surprise you? What are you wondering after making these observations?

*Answers will vary.*

## Going Further

A great follow-up activity could be to have groups of learners design additional features for the mixed species area and explain their rationale.