



Think Like a Scientist

Educator Handout

Overview

Snapshot Wisconsin pictures can be used to interpret wildlife characteristics, such as a species' diet or an animal's age. By doing this activity made for all ages, let's use these photos to figure out what they can tell us!

Procedures:

1. Split participants into equal groups. Each group should have a set of Trait Categories and a set of the 28 provided trail camera photos (pages 3-10 of this document). Pages should be cut along dotted lines. Each group should have a table or flat space to work at.
2. Spread out the Characteristic Categories and trail camera photos. Give them 15 minutes to work together to place the photos underneath the Characteristic Categories based on what information that photo is telling us the *most*.
 - a. For example, is a picture of an antlered deer in the summer giving more information about its sex or time of year it is active? This is a subjective activity meant to promote discussion, so a Characteristic Category can have multiple photos under it, or none at all.
3. After 15 minutes, have volunteers from each group justify why they put the pictures where they did.
4. Wrap up with discussion about how open-ended interpretation can be but how it is important to communicate and support our claims, and how each of the photos can tell us multiple details about a species.
 - a. Feel free to use the concepts below to inspire discussion.

Talking Points/Key Concepts:

- A photo can contain a lot of data, but interpretation can be open-ended.
- What different aspects of biology can be caught on camera?
- How would you design a research study using Snapshot Wisconsin to gather information on the characteristics they observed?
- Did you learn anything new? What prior knowledge of the species could help you in this activity?



Diet



All these pictures could be put under the “Diet” Characteristic Category because they show an animal eating/capturing prey, informing us its diet (the hawk captured a snake, the coyote has a piece of meat in its mouth, the deer is eating part of a plant).

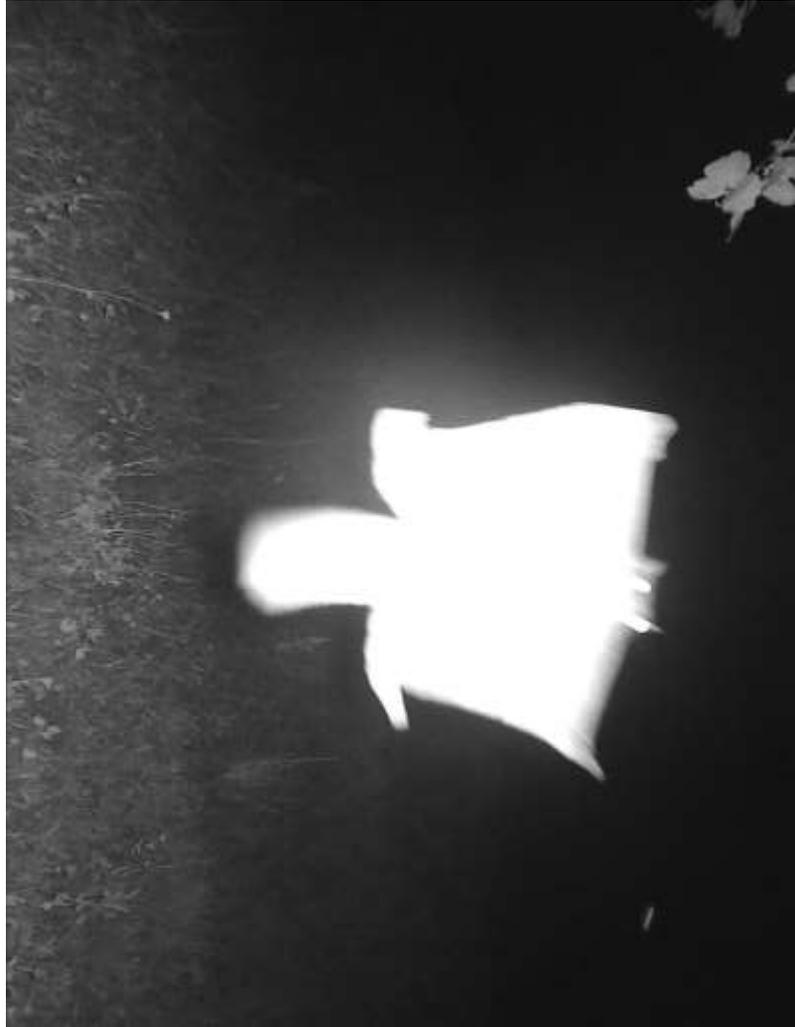
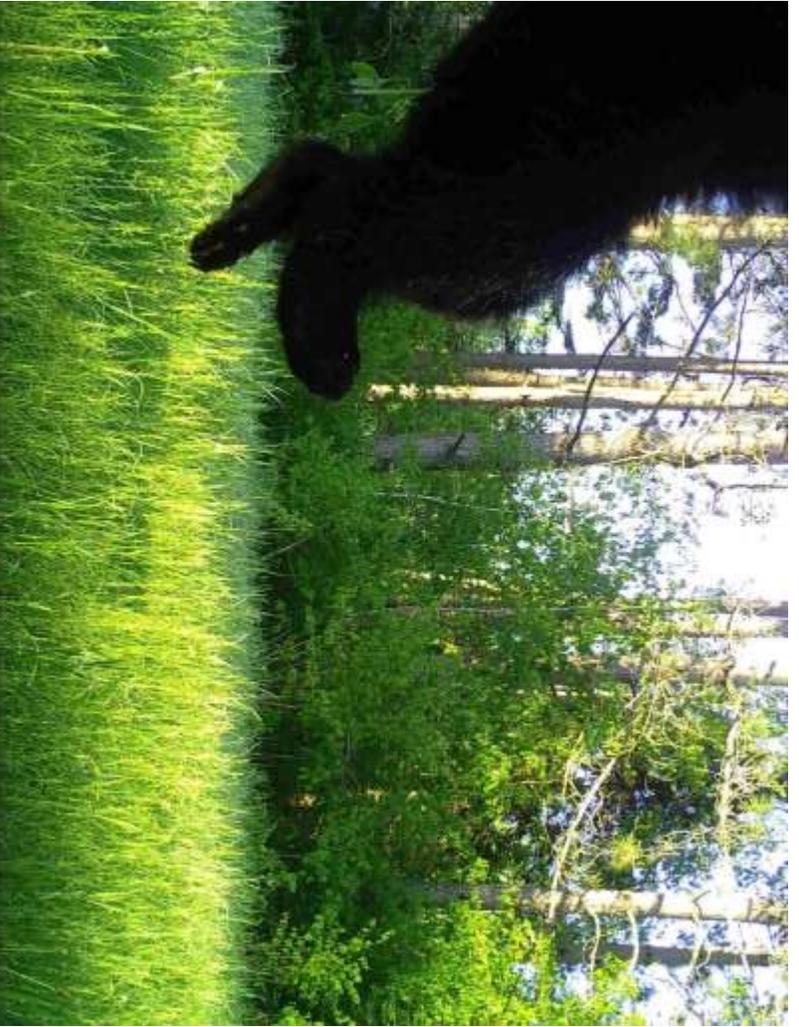
Notes: Pictures/headers can be spread out on table, hung with tape/magnets, etc. Also, if you host a camera, we encourage you to use your own pictures!

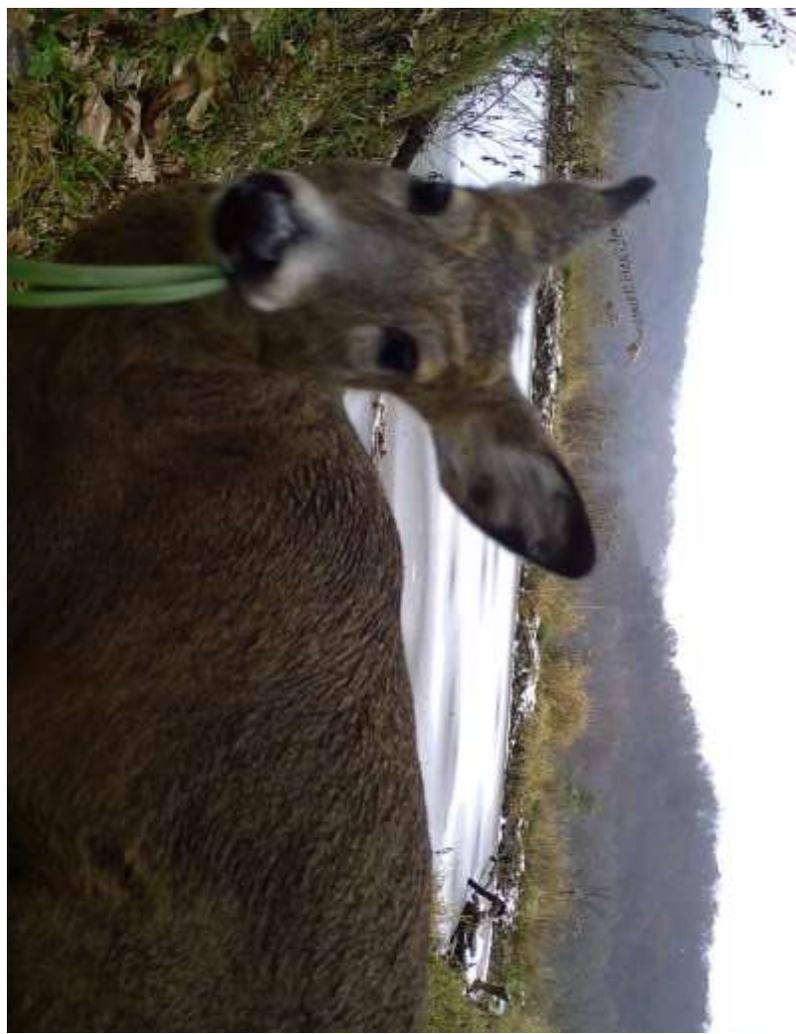














Characteristic Categories: Print and cut out along dotted lines.

Diet

Time of Day
Active

Habitat
Preference

Time of Year
Active

Breeding
Season

Male or
Female

Interesting
Behaviors/Characteristics

Age

Species
Identification

Interactions with Other
Species

Individual
Identification

Interactions with the Same
Species