



Predator-Prey Interactions 1

INTRODUCTION

Animals can either be predators or prey. In Africa, there are many more species of prey than there are species of predators. When faced with a predator, these African prey species react with a variety of behaviors. Some species will immediately run, while other species may increase their vigilance, and others still may make alarm calls to scare the predators away. However, a single species of prey does not use only one of these behaviors. In fact, one species of prey may show different behaviors when faced with different species of predators.

In this activity, you will learn about how one prey species may respond to the presence of different species of predator. Using videos recorded by camera traps, you will observe and take notes about any differences in the prey's response to hearing the calls of different predators. Then you will formulate hypotheses related to why the prey may have responded differently to these different predators.

PROCEDURE

There are 9 videos associated with this worksheet. These videos have three different prey species: **elephant, impala, and warthog**, responding to the calls of three different predator species: **lion, cheetah, and wild dog**.

1. First, choose one prey species that you would like to study, and write its name below:

2. Before watching the videos, make some predictions about how you think your prey species will respond to each species of predator:

Response to a lion call:

Response to a cheetah call:



Snapshot Safari Student Worksheet



Response to a wild dog call:

3. Now, watch the three videos of your prey species responding to each of the predator species, and take notes on what you observe:

Response to a lion call:

Response to a cheetah call:

Response to a wild dog call:

4. Did your prey species respond in the same way to each predator call?



Snapshot Safari Student Worksheet



5. Why do you think your prey species responded the way it did to these three predators?

6. Think of some follow-up questions you could ask based on the observations you have made using these videos.