



MINNESOTA ZOO™
Changing how you see the world

Geography: Tracking Animals Onsite Activity

Vocabulary:

Home range
Triangulation

Links:

<http://www.mnzoo.com>

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth>

http://www.wolf.org/wolves/experience/telemsearch/vtelem/telem_intro.asp

<http://www.wildmesquite.org/wolf.htm>

Introduction:

Animals can be rather secretive and hard to study. Scientists use various methods to track animals to learn more about their natural history including home range and migration.

Objectives:

At the end of this lesson, the students will:

1. Students will be able to use triangulation to track animals in a study area.
2. Students will look at various methods scientist use to track tigers.

Procedure:

1. Walk the Northern Trail and visit the "Tiger Base Camp" exhibit. Locate the radio collar in the exhibit using the radio receiver antenna.
2. Also at the Tiger Base Camp, find many different ways scientists can track tigers. If you see the tiger in the exhibit, realize that you are very lucky, most scientists rarely see the tigers they are tracking.
3. Also visit the "Tiger Lair" exhibit along the Northern Trail. Look for a map showing where tigers currently live and where they use to live. Compare the two areas.
4. Try to attend a bird show (shows are limited at certain times of the year. Check the Minnesota Zoo website for more information). Some of the birds in this free flight show may have radio transmitters. Sometimes you can see the antenna hanging down from the bird. Why would the bird show birds need to be radio tagged?