

Children's University Learning Experience



1. When you have completed the activity in this booklet fill in your CU Passport with the date, for 1 hour with *meerkat observation* as the activity.
2. Take your CU Passport to the staff at the visitors desk and ask for a stamp.

Meerkat



If a staff member isn't available, take this sheet back to school and ask your CU coordinator to stamp your passport.

Scientists use research and field work skills such as *observation* to learn about animals.

In this learning experience you will be observing a meerkat



Go to
the **meerkat** enclosure
in front of the Monarto Zoo Visitor Centre.

Get started...

- ◇ Choose one meerkat to watch.
- ◇ Read the behaviour key (next page) and see what the code letter is for possible meerkat behaviours.
- ◇ Every 60 seconds (1minute) write down what you see (observe) the meerkat doing at that moment.
- ◇ Repeat 10 times (until 10 minutes have passed).

Your name (name of observer) _____

Date:

Time:

Species of study animal: Meerkat

Does your meerkat have any special colours or shapes (features)?

What is the weather like?

Sunny Cloudy Wet Still

Hot Warm Cold Windy

Every one minute (for 10 minutes) write down what you see the meerkat doing.

1 min	Code
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Code Behaviour

- W** Walking
- S** Sitting on back legs
- H** Standing on back legs
- C** Calling out
- E** Eating
- R** Resting / Sleeping
- O** Hiding
- I** Exploring / moving about
- D** Digging
- G** Grooming
- X** Other (specify)

When you have completed an animal observations you can take your passport to the Monarto Tour Desk and get a 1 hour credit stamped in your Children's University Passport

Choose another animal observation activity for more credits in your Children's University Passport



Extension work if you choose...

You have gathered some interesting information about meerkats. Can you turn your data into a graph? Present your data in different types of graphs.

Can you think of reasons the meerkat enclosure has been built like it has?

Think about;

- Logs and rocks
- Sand
- Any other things you notice
- Meerkats are not a threatened species. Why do you think they are kept at Monarto Zoo?

