Junior Ecologist

Hello Junior Ecologist!
Thank you for accepting the task to join our group and explore some amazing habitats from around the world! Today, you will get to choose what kind of animal you like best and observe it the place it lives called a _____.

Part 1: Observations and Inferences

In your own words, how would you describe an observation?

In your own words, how would you describe an inference?

Part 2:
You will first pick an organism to observe. What organism did you select? _____

Using a webcam, watch your organism for a little while or until your teacher tells you to start/stop. You will need to write down as much as possible about your organism and its habitat. Under observations, include living and nonliving things that you see. In the chart provided, record as much as you can. Ask your teacher if you have any questions.

Observation	Inference

What do you think about this organism? Is it your favorite and why? What more would you like to learn about your animal?

Webcams to use for this challenge:

- Explore.org
- Teens4Oceans.org
- www.bear.org
- http://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/content/video-more
- Earthcam.com
- http://nationalzoo.si.edu/webcams
- https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals-and-experiences/live-web-cams
- https://goo.gl/L5Cpir

Help with driving question creation:

https://www.edutopia.org/blog/pbl-how-to-write-driving-questions-andrew-miller

Reference Sheet
*IUCN Status Rank

- Extinct (EX) – No known individuals remaining
- Extinct in the wild (EW) – Known only to survive in captivity, or as a naturalized population outside its historic range
- Critically endangered (CR) – Extremely high risk of extinction in the wild
- Endangered (EN) – High risk of extinction in the wild
- Vulnerable (VU) – High risk of endangerment in the wild
- Near threatened (NT) – Likely to become endangered in the near future
- Least concern (LC) – Lowest risk; does not qualify for a higher risk category. Widespread and abundant taxa are included in this category.
- Data deficient (DD) – Not enough data to make an assessment of its risk of extinction
- Not evaluated (NE) – Has not yet been evaluated against the criteria

Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conservation_status