

BUSH DETECTIVE

Field Journal

MODULE 4 • ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR



This Detective Journal belongs to:

Age: _____ Start Date: _____

"Become a Bush Detective. Read the clues."

- Scout ■

Welcome, Agent

Scout here. ■ I need your help. The African bush is full of clues - how animals live, how they shout, how they wave, how they smell, how they hide. Your mission in this module is to learn how to **READ those clues**. Every Case File in this journal unlocks one new skill. Finish all 7 and you'll earn the Bush Detective Badge.

How to use this journal:

1. Watch the lesson video on ecotrainingonline.co.za
2. Play the interactive game
3. Fill in this Case File page
4. Do the Real-World Challenge outside
5. Tick off your Clue Card

When all 7 Clue Cards are ticked, take the Final Quiz to earn your Bush Detective Badge ■

CASE FILE 1

■ Lone Rangers

Big Idea: Some animals live alone on purpose. Being solo helps them hide, hunt and survive.

■ *Scout Mission:*

Agent 1, your first case: find 3 ways a solo animal hides better than a group. Name at least 2 solitary animals.

—■ Your Detective Work:

■ Name 2 solitary animals you learned about today:

■ Why does a leopard live alone?

■ Draw a leopard in its tree (use the box below):

■ **Real-World Challenge:** Sit in your garden or a park for 5 minutes. Count how many animals/birds you see ALONE vs in GROUPS. Record below.

■ ■ CLUE CARD 1 COLLECTED

CASE FILE 2

■ Pairs & Packs

Big Idea: Some animals marry for life. Others raise babies as a whole family team.

■ *Scout Mission:*

Agent 2, a mother hornbill is sealed inside a tree. Your mission: list 3 things the male hornbill does to keep his family alive.

—■ **Your Detective Work:**

■ What does the female hornbill use to close up her nest?

■ In a wild dog pack, who babysits the puppies?

■ Fill in the wild dog family tree: Alpha Male + Alpha Female = _____

■ **Real-World Challenge:** Watch any bird pair near your home. Who builds? Who guards? Who feeds? Write what you see.

■ ■ **CLUE CARD 2 COLLECTED**

CASE FILE 3

■ Who's the Boss?

Big Idea: In every group, someone is in charge. Sometimes a strong male, sometimes a wise grandmother.

■ *Scout Mission:*

Agent 3, identify the 3 types of leadership in the bush: Harem, Coalition, Matriarchy. Match each to the right animal.

⇒ ■ Your Detective Work:

■ Impala groups are called _____ (led by 1 big male).

■ Two lion brothers defending territory together is called a _____.

■ Elephant herds are led by a wise old female. This is called a _____.

■ **Real-World Challenge:** Figure out who the 'matriarch' is in your own family (the wise one everyone listens to). Draw a portrait.

■ ■ CLUE CARD 3 COLLECTED

CASE FILE 4

■ Safety in Numbers

Big Idea: Two million eyes see better than two. That's why wildebeest, zebra and impala hang out together.

■ *Scout Mission:*

Agent 4, explain why animals of different species form mixed herds. Use the word EYES in your answer.

⇒ ■ **Your Detective Work:**

■ Why do zebras and wildebeest often travel together?

■ What is the Great Migration?

■ Draw the Serengeti to Mara migration route on a simple map:

■ **Real-World Challenge:** Watch any flock of birds. When ONE flies, do they ALL fly? Write what happens.

■ ■ **CLUE CARD 4 COLLECTED**

CASE FILE 5

■ Loud & Clear

Big Idea: The bush is louder than it sounds. Every noise means something.

■ *Scout Mission:*

Agent 5, close your eyes and listen. Your mission: identify 4 sounds without looking.

⇒ ■ Your Detective Work:

■ How far can a lion's roar be heard?

■ Why do rangers listen for vervet monkey alarm calls?

■ List 4 sounds you heard on your Eyes-Closed mission:

■ **Real-World Challenge:** Sit outside with your eyes CLOSED for 3 minutes. List every sound you hear. You'll be amazed.

■ ■ CLUE CARD 5 COLLECTED

CASE FILE 6

■ Signs & Signals

Big Idea: Animals don't see colours like you do - so they wear FLAGS instead.

■ *Scout Mission:*

Agent 6, decode the flags. Match 5 animal markings to the animals that wear them.

⇒ ■ Your Detective Work:

■ What is the M on an impala's bum for?

■ When a kudu lifts its tail, what colour shows?

■ Why are the tips of a lion's ears dark?

■ **Real-World Challenge:** Look at your pet (dog, cat, hamster). Where are its darkest markings? Draw them.

■ ■ CLUE CARD 6 COLLECTED

CASE FILE 7

■■ Secret Smells & Super Armour

Big Idea: The bush has an invisible language - smell. And some animals have super-armour.

■ Scout Mission:

Agent 7, this is the final case. Find a pangolin, protect it, and learn why nature gave it armour instead of claws.

—■ Your Detective Work:

■ What is a rhino midden?

■ How does a pangolin defend itself?

■ Why are pangolins in danger from humans?

■ **Real-World Challenge:** Take the Protect the Pangolin Pledge (next page). Share the pangolin's story with ONE friend this week.

■■ CLUE CARD 7 COLLECTED

The Protect the Pangolin Pledge

Pangolins are the most trafficked (illegally traded) animals in the world. They are taken from their homes in the wild and sold. As a Junior Ranger, YOU can help change that.

I, _____ (your name), promise to:

- Tell at least ONE friend about pangolins this week.
- Never buy anything made from wild animals.
- Share what I learned with my family.
- Be a Guardian, not just a Guide.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

BUSH DETECTIVE

This certifies that

has successfully completed all 7 Case Files of

Module 4: Animal Behaviour

and is now an official Junior Rangers

BUSH DETECTIVE

EcoTraining Junior Rangers • Guides and Guardians

Scout ■

Date