

## Field Studies – Types of Questions

Animal Behaviorists, or scientists who study the actions and decisions of animals, observe and collect their data from a distance while watching their group of animals. They can do this at zoos, in animal sanctuaries, in the Amazon Rainforest or African Savannah, and even from the comfort of their own living room. Like all scientists though, they observe these animals with specific, well-designed questions in mind. Depending upon what they want to observe, Animal Behaviorists will create a question from one of two categories: *Interspecies* or *Intraspecies*.

The first type of question an Animal Behaviorist might want to create is an *Interspecies* question, or a question that compares one behavior amongst two different species. Some groups of animals may exhibit similar behaviors, such as a Squirrel Monkey and a Mustached Tamarin jumping from branch-to-branch. An Animal Behaviorist might develop a question asking, “*How does the frequency of branch jumping differ between a Squirrel Monkey and a Mustached Tamarin?*” An animal behaviorist may want to compare the frequency of jumping between these two species, which could lead to suggestions for zoo exhibits and nature reserves that are built with the animal’s behavior tendencies in mind.

The other type of animal behavior field study question is called an *Intraspecies* question. In this type of question, a behavior is compared between two groups of animals within the same species. An Animal Behaviorist might compare male and female tendencies of lions, or the behavior differences between a female sun bear without offspring and a female sun bear with offspring. For example, “*Do male or female lions roar more frequently?*” Scientists might also be curious about the behavior tendencies of various sized individuals, “*How does the size of lion cubs affect the frequency of tail movement?*” Again, *Intraspecies* questions may lead to suggestions for better habitats that are best suited for the animal’s behavior, and provide the mental and physical stimulation for a healthy and happy animal.

In conclusion, an Animal Behaviorist is a scientist who studies the actions and decisions of animals, both in the wild and in animal sanctuaries. Questions that are asked by these scientists focus primarily on comparing a behavior amongst a different species (*Interspecies*) and comparing behaviors within the same species (*Intraspecies*). No matter what the question being asked by the scientist is, it should be something that the scientist would like to know the answer to and sparks curiosity within them.

## Interspecies Questions

*In my own words...*

My First Interspecies Question

My Second Interspecies Question

## Intraspecies Questions

*In my own words...*

My First Intraspecies Question

My Second Event Question