

# WILDLIFE DETECTIVES

## VOCABULARY LIST



**Animal tracks:** marks or imprints left on the ground by wild animals

**Binoculars:** special tools used to make distant objects appear larger

**Breeding season:** time of year when animals reproduce

**Climate change:** long-term shifts in the Earth's temperature and weather patterns

**Conservation:** the act of protecting Earth's natural resources for current and future generations

**Conservationist:** a person who acts for the protection of the environment and wildlife

**Endangered:** describes a species that is seriously at risk of disappearing from the Earth entirely

**Extinct:** describes a species that once existed on Earth but no longer has any living members

**Genetics:** the study of how traits are passed from parents to their offspring

**Graduate student:** a person who is pursuing a master's or doctoral degree

**Headlamp:** a flashlight worn on the head

**Herpetologist:** person who studies reptiles and amphibians

**In the field:** an expression used by scientists to refer to the natural places where they conduct research, including forests, oceans, deserts, and other wild places

**In the lab:** an expression used by scientists to refer to the indoor places they work in that are equipped with the tools needed for their scientific research

**Mammologist:** person who studies mammals

**Nest:** structure made by birds for laying eggs and sheltering young

**Ornithologist:** scientist who studies birds

**Scientist:** someone who studies the world around them by asking questions and trying to find answers about the way things work

**Spotting scope:** portable telescope that is used to observe distant objects and wild animals

**Veterinarian or Vet:** a medical doctor for animals

**Wildlife:** living things in nature, not including humans or domesticated animals such as pets

**Wildlife ecology:** study of the interactions among wild animals and their environment

