Untamed Science—S.M.A.R.T.

Objective: Students will understand how tracking and recording signs (visual clues) of animals and poaching is used to help stop illegal activities.

You will need:

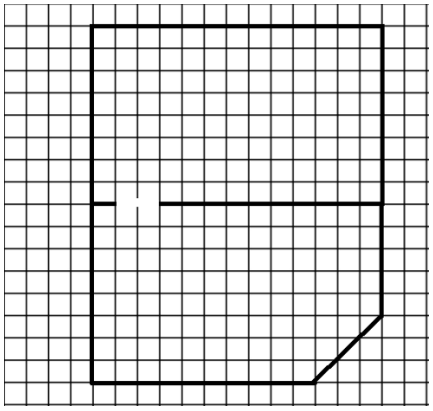
- Printouts of the following pages
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Keen eyesight

Directions:

The zoo uses S.M.A.R.T. (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) to track animals and evidence of poachers in order to save wildlife. Rangers are trained in different parts of the world to watch for signs of poaching. They use the S.M.A.R.T device to record the data and how the animals are doing. Do you have what it takes to be a SMART Ranger?

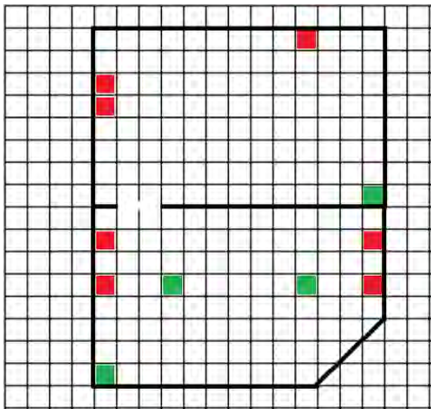
Each object listed below will represent a certain animal or a sign of poaching. Using the grid on page 2, mark off the boundaries of the space you are in. You can choose to be inside or outside.

For example, if I were inside and using my kitchen and living room as my space, it might look something like picture 1



Picture 1

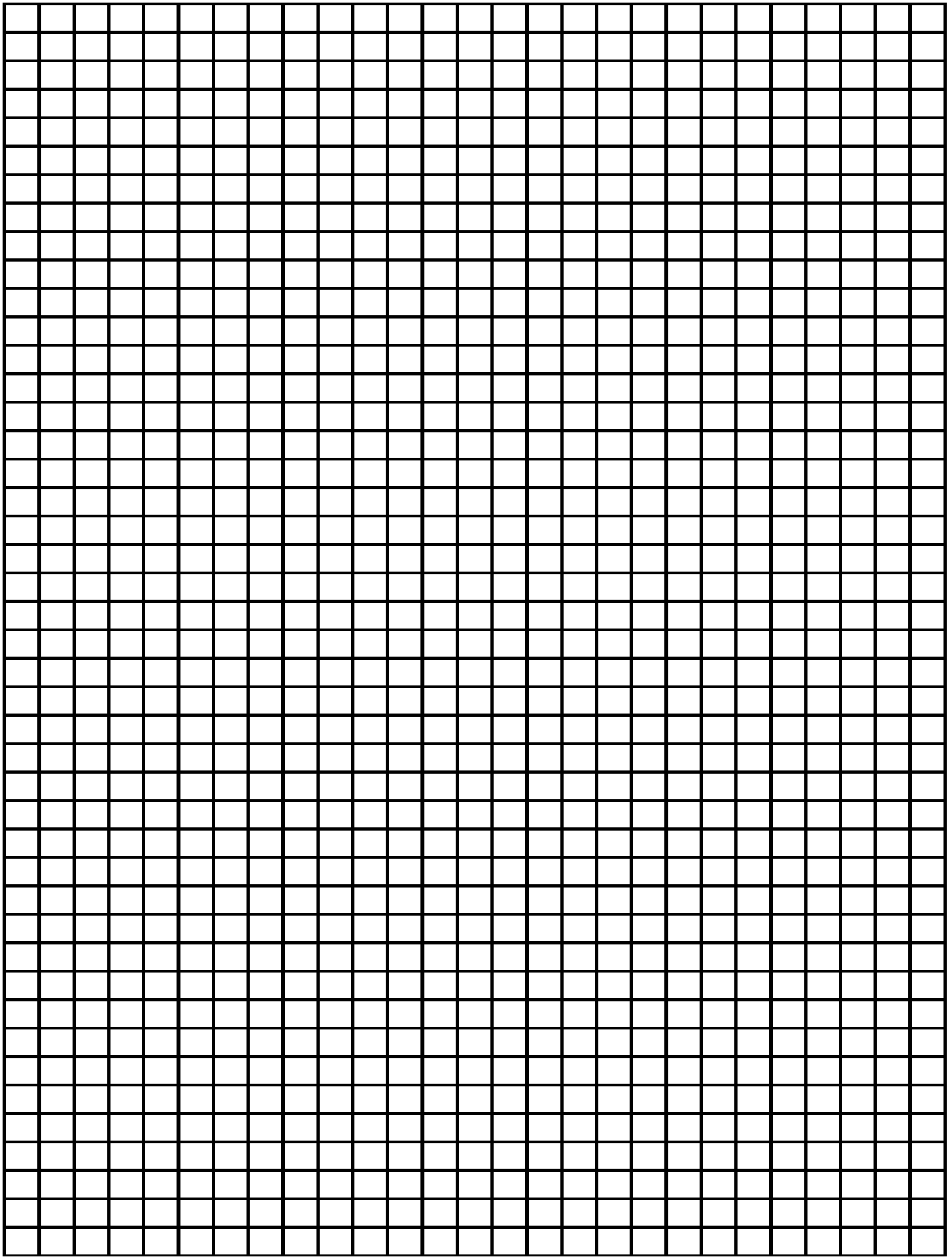
Use your eyes to patrol your area and look for the items in the key below, which represent signs of animals or poaching. Then mark off where you saw each sign on your grid—use one color for an animal (I used green), and another for poaching (I used red). For example: Every lamp is a Rhino, but every window is a snare. It might look something like picture 2



Picture 2

Use a different color for each animal and each sign of poaching.

KEY	Inside	Outside
Rhino	Lamp	Bird
Gazelle	Outlet	Squirrel
Endangered Lizard	Something Green	Tree
Lion	Something Yellow	Bush
Snare	Window	Insect
Campfire	Something Orange	Lamp Post
Footprints	Ceiling Light	Rocks

After the Activity

Now that you know what signs of poaching look like, how might you change your patrol pattern to catch the poachers?