



Make a wildlife documentary

For 5 years up

You will need: Telephone with video filming facility, toy animals

Watch a [British wildlife documentary](#) for some ideas.

Set up your own wildlife habitats using toy animals in the garden or inside. Or check see if there are any animals (birds, insects, squirrels etc) visiting your garden which you could film.

(Tip: If setting up inside use a sheet or blanket over some cushions to make some hills and find other items to create a more interesting habitat).

Watch a [Youtube](#) film from Friend of Suntrap Gary Schwartz who shares some tips for filming your video.

You need to plan how you are going to film your documentary.

FILMING ACTION PLAN

Step 1:

Find out a fact about each of the animals in your documentary.

Step 2:

Write a script (Tip: For younger children this can be done as a story board with a simple picture to show the order of filming).

The script can include;

- a title for the programme (Tip: Make a simple set of titles by making a poster with the name of the programme and credits for the presenter and camera operator. This can be filmed at the start of the programme.)
- the order of filming each animal
- what fact is going to be said (either as a voice over or direct to camera) for each animal.
- a final piece to camera to wrap up the programme e.g. "I love animals, my favourite was the (child's favourite). Thanks for watching see you next time".

Step 3:

Practice the presentation before filming begins. (Tip: Make an autocue board for each animal so the presenter can remember what they are going to say, remember for younger ones this can be done using pictures too.)

Step 4:

Do your filming. (Tip: Each animal could have its own episode with a different presenter. That way everyone gets a turn!).

Step 5:

Edit your film ([watch Gary's how to guide](#)).

Step 6:

Share the premier of the film with your family. You can share it with us too using the hashtag #suntrapathome



"We can see that this is an African elephant as it has larger ears than an Asian."



"Just like humans, giraffes have seven vertebrae in their neck. But each can be over 25cm long!"

[Watch the winning entries from our Suntrap At Home Safari Film Challenge.](#)