

## From *Looking at Photographs: Animals*

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### Glossary

**aerial photography:** photography done from airplanes, balloons, or other aircraft.

**available light:** whatever light is already present in the scene the photographer is observing, without the addition of flash or strobe.

**background:** that part of the space in a scene or a photograph that's furthest from the camera.

**backlighting:** illumination that's coming from a source behind the subject.

**bird's-eye view:** a perspective from the sky, or from an extremely high place.

**centering:** placing a subject in the middle of the image's frame.

**close-up:** an image made from very near a subject, often within touching distance.

**color print:** a photographic image in color, usually made from a color negative or slide, most commonly on a paper backing.

**composition:** the organization of shapes, lines, tones and colors in a two-dimensional image.

**context:** the situation in which a subject is located.

**cropping:** selecting only a portion of a negative or slide to be printed as the final image.

**decisive moment:** an instant at which some part of an event's meaning is understood by a photographer and registered in an exposure.

**exposure:** allowing light to strike the sensitive surface of the photographic film or paper; also, the amount of light allowed to do so.

**eye level:** the height of a creature's eyes.

**film:** transparent plastic with a coating that is sensitive to light.

**flash:** a portable light source, usually attached to or built into a camera.

**foreground:** that part of the space in a scene or a photograph that's closest to the camera.

**frame:** the border or edge of the photographic image.

**framing:** deciding where that border or edge will be placed.

**hand camera:** a camera light enough in weight to be supported by the photographer's hands, without the use of a tripod.

**lens:** the glass "eye" that shapes the light entering the camera.

**likeness:** any image that resembles a particular person.

**microphotography:** photography done through a microscope.

**middle ground:** that part of the space in a scene or a photograph that's in between the foreground and the background.

**motion pictures:** movies.

**negative:** film that has been exposed to light by photographing; may be either black & white or color. The tones or colors of the scene photographed are reversed in the negative.

**panning:** moving the camera in the direction the subject is moving during exposure.

**photographic sequence:** two or more photographs presented in a specific order.

**point of view:** the position from which a photographer observes a scene.

**portrait:** a photograph that suggests something about the individuality of a particular person.

**posing:** presenting oneself deliberately as a subject for the making of a photograph.

**positive:** a photographic image, usually a print, most often made from a negative on light-sensitive paper.

**press photographer:** a photographer who makes pictures for magazines and newspapers.

**print:** a photographic image, usually a positive, made from a negative; most commonly on a paper backing.

**scale:** the relationship in size between two or more things.

**shutter:** the part of the lens that opens and closes, allowing light to strike the film.

**shutter release:** the button or other device that operates the shutter.

**shutter speed:** the rate at which the shutter opens and closes, usually adjustable by the photographer.

**silhouette:** the outline of an object's shape that's created by backlighting.

**slide:** a transparent image, usually in color, made to be viewed by using a slide projector.

**snapshot:** a photographic exposure made very quickly, most often with a hand camera.

**strobe:** a particularly powerful and rapid form of flash; may be portable or immobile.

**studio:** a space set up and reserved for an artist or photographer to work in.

**subject:** the object or event the photographer is observing and describing.

**telephoto lens:** a lens that compresses space like a telescope, bringing distant events closer to the film in the camera.

**three-quarter profile:** an image of the head of human or animal, as seen from an angle halfway between the front and the side of the head.

**tripod:** a three-legged stand used to support a camera.

**viewfinder:** the small window in the camera body that allows the photographer to see what the lens is pointing at and framing.

**viewpoint:** see *point of view*.

**vignetting:** leaving out everything in the image except the main subject.

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