

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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