

## Biodiversity Investigation

As a class pick two sites on your schoolyard, preferably ones that are different in habitat type or plant cover.

Make predictions.

- Which habitat do we think will have more biodiversity?

Divide the class into small groups. Each group will have a worksheet to fill out (see below). Will need one double-sided sheet per area investigated.

Have the students explore each area and using the worksheet record all the biodiversity they encounter. Counting each plant, insect, etc that is different.

### Discussion Questions

- Were our predictions, correct?
  - What area did we find more biodiversity?
- Share something interesting that you saw or encountered?
- What do you wonder?

What are they looking for?

- Plants
  - Study the plants in the area, how many different types can you find?
    - Look at the stems, leaves, flowers to help you determine if they are the same or different
- Wildlife
  - Start with sitting quietly in different areas of the site and watching quietly to see what animals you might see, look in the air, on the ground.
  - After quiet, sitting time, then can begin to look around the site for signs of wildlife
    - animal signs (feathers, tracks in the mud, fur, chewed leaves, etc)
    - look under rocks and logs (don't forget to put them back in place)

### Take-home Activity

Give students a sheet to take home and try a biodiversity exploration in their backyard or local park. Then have follow-up discussions in class to see what the students discovered.



**Biodiversity Investigation**

Names:

Site Description:

<b>Wildlife</b>		
Type of Animal	Different Species Seen	Total Number Seen
<b>Birds</b>		
<b>Insects and Spiders</b>		
<b>Mammals</b>		
<b>Reptiles or Amphibians</b>		
<b>Animal Signs</b> Feathers, tracks, fur, nests, chewed leaves		

**Biodiversity Investigation**

Names:

Site Description:

<b>Plants</b>		
Type of Animal	Different Species Seen	Total Number Seen
<b>Grasses</b> Look closely are there different types?		
<b>Ground Plants and Flowers</b>		
<b>Bushes or Shrubs</b>		
<b>Trees</b>		
<b>Fungus, Moss or Lichen</b> Can be found growing on trees, logs or the ground		