



RESEARCH STATION

LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

Activity 3

ESTIMATED TIME



25 minutes

LOCATION



Outside

SUGGESTED GROUPING



Individual

ACTIVITY TYPE



Craft

MATERIALS: Paper, Pencil/Pen/Crayon/Marker, Hard Writing Surface, Hula Hoop

INTRODUCTION

When researchers are working to determine the number of species or number of individuals in the wild, they often need to look at a smaller sample of space than the entire ecosystem. To do this, they usually come up with a certain amount of space they will look at and try it in multiple areas. This method makes it easier for them to count organisms and use the number they find to determine how many are in a larger area.

In this activity, we will use methods similar to scientists to investigate an area of the outdoors.

HOW-TO

1. Prepare the activity (5 minutes)

Gather a piece of paper, something to write with, and something to mark off a small space (like a hula hoop).

2. Choose your spot (5 minutes)

Choose a research site that is on your deck, in your yard or at a park. Your research site should be small enough to fit into a hula hoop.

3. Observe the area inside your space (5 minutes)

Observe your site silently. Hold still and stay quiet. See what different plants are growing and what animals are in your site.

4. Draw what you see (5 minutes)

Draw or write down your observations. What animals are in the space? What plants? Is there anything on the ground?

5. Wrap-up (5 minutes)

Did you see anything that surprised you? What didn't surprise you? Has anything changed since the first time you observed?

6. More fun (optional)

Once a day visit your site. Did you see anything different?

LEARN MORE

- Around One Log by Anthony D Fredericks
- My Mindful Walk with Grandma by Sheri Mabry

