

# CAMPS AT HOME

## Backyard Biodiversity

### Materials:

- String/yarn
- 8 flags or sticks popsicle sticks (anything to create a plot)
- Clipboard, paper and pencil
- Print or recreate the data sheet attached
- \*optional - magnifying glass, meter stick or measuring tape

### Steps:

1. Take some time to identify two locations around your home that will differ in their environmental aspects. For example, choose one sunny location and one that is always shaded or if you have a garden chose one location in your garden and one in the grassy lawn.
2. Write out your research statement to indicate what you are studying today.
  - a. Example: "I will compare plant & insect species found in a forested area with those found in a sunny grassy area near the shed."
3. Using a meter stick and flags (or other measuring tool), mark your sampling area. Even a hula hoop or skipping rope will work for this.
4. Use your data sheets to record or draw your findings.
  - a. Count the number of individuals of each species and record those numbers on your data sheet.
  - b. Make a graph of species found and determine which species was the most common and which species was the least common.
  - c. What plot had the most number of total species?
  - d. What plot had the greatest number of total individuals?
  - e. Did you see any animals? What were they doing?
  - f. Why was one area more diverse than the other?
5. If you can collect data at other times of day or in a week. Compare your results. What has changed? Why?



# Backyard Biodiversity Data Sheet

Field Researchers Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Time of Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Research Statement: \_\_\_\_\_

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	Plot #1	Plot #2
Location (sun, shade, beside house)		
Soil (sand, clay, colour, moist, dry)		
Vegetation (grass, flowers, roots) How many of each type?		
Animals		
Insects		
Other Field Notes		