



SIT SPOTS: METER PLOT SURVEY

Summary

What is a meter plot survey?

- A meter plot is a square one meter wide.
- In biology, a survey is the process of counting of all the species in an area, like recording all the species in the forest, or counting all the species and amounts of a group, like looking at a pond and recording there are 10 mallards, 3 geese and 1 heron.

Why do we do it?

- Counting every species in a one-meter square gives us a good estimate about what lives in the rest of the ecosystem.

How do you conduct your survey?

- Find an area in your Sit Spot with the most diversity, or different kinds, of organisms.
- Mark off a meter square, using four sticks, string and a measuring tape.
- Record what you see.
 - Record the types of species in your square.
 - If you don't know the names of the species, you can still record them. Record how many different kinds of living things are in the square; make a sketch of each kind you see, write a description of what it looks like, or make up your own names for each of the species you see.
 - Look for signs that left behind by animals, like tracks, parts of their nest, or fur.
- When you're done with your survey, make sure to remove the sticks and string.

Repeat your survey.

- Do it at the beginning of each season, or in different kinds of weather.
- Take a picture of your plot before you remove the sticks and string, to help you put it up in the same place the next time you do your survey.

