



Biodiversity Survey Walk

Materials

- Google Docs or Slides
- Google Classroom
- Google Meet

Standards

- LS2.C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience • Biodiversity describes the variety of species found in Earth's terrestrial and oceanic ecosystems. The completeness or integrity of an ecosystem's biodiversity is often used as a measure of its health. (MS-LS2-5)
- Stability and Change • Small changes in one part of a system might cause large changes in another part. (MS-LS2-5)

Procedure

- Have a discussion about what biodiversity is and explain to students that they will be evaluating the plant biodiversity in their own neighborhood. (The defining of biodiversity could be reserved for after the survey walk if desired)
- Review with students how to insert images into Google Docs or Sheets if necessary
- Post the Biodiversity Survey Walk as an assignment for students in Google Classroom. Select "make a copy for each student" before posting the assignment and fill in the appropriate fields.
- Arrange for a Google Meet or an in-person discussion to take place after the deadline for submission has passed. Have students share their findings and conclusions about the biodiversity in their neighborhood. Students can share their photographs at this time as well. Ask students if they would consider the variety of plants discovered to be as diverse and abundant as other local locations.



Extension Activity

- Have students complete another biodiversity survey for a different local location and compare their results to the survey they took around their own neighborhood.
- Students can estimate the entire population size of a particular species in a more densely planted area (such as a local park) using Quadrats.
 - Teacher resources:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDp3l07Wcrg>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhMOCxXcDrQ>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLAFk0E79Cg>