



Neighborhood BIOBLITZ!



Neighborhoods aren't just full of people – they are full of other animals as well. Some are easy to observe like squirrels and robins, while others are small and hidden. If you look carefully, you may be surprised by how many different **species**, or types of plants and animals, are in your neighborhood.

A **Bioblitz** is a fun way to observe, count and identify the species living in a certain place. This helps us understand the world around us. **Diversity** means variety. When we find many different types of plants and animals, the environment is diverse and tends to be healthier.

To perform a Bioblitz, you will 1) Select and prepare your study site, 2) Count and identify the species that you find, and 3) Display your results. Ready! Set! Bioblitz!!

Select and Prepare Your Study Site

1. Select a spot that ideally includes plants, rocks and sticks.
2. Place 4 stakes in the ground in a square shape (1 foot by 1 foot).
3. Place string around the stakes and adjust stakes to tighten the square.
4. Closely observe your square plot and record your data on the next page.
5. Use a spoon (or fingers) to dig, move items, or scoop critters onto a plate for viewing.
6. Return all organisms to their homes and leave everything the way you found it.

Supplies









4 wooden stakes
4-ft cotton string
Hand lens
Paper plate
Spoon



Draw your square plot here

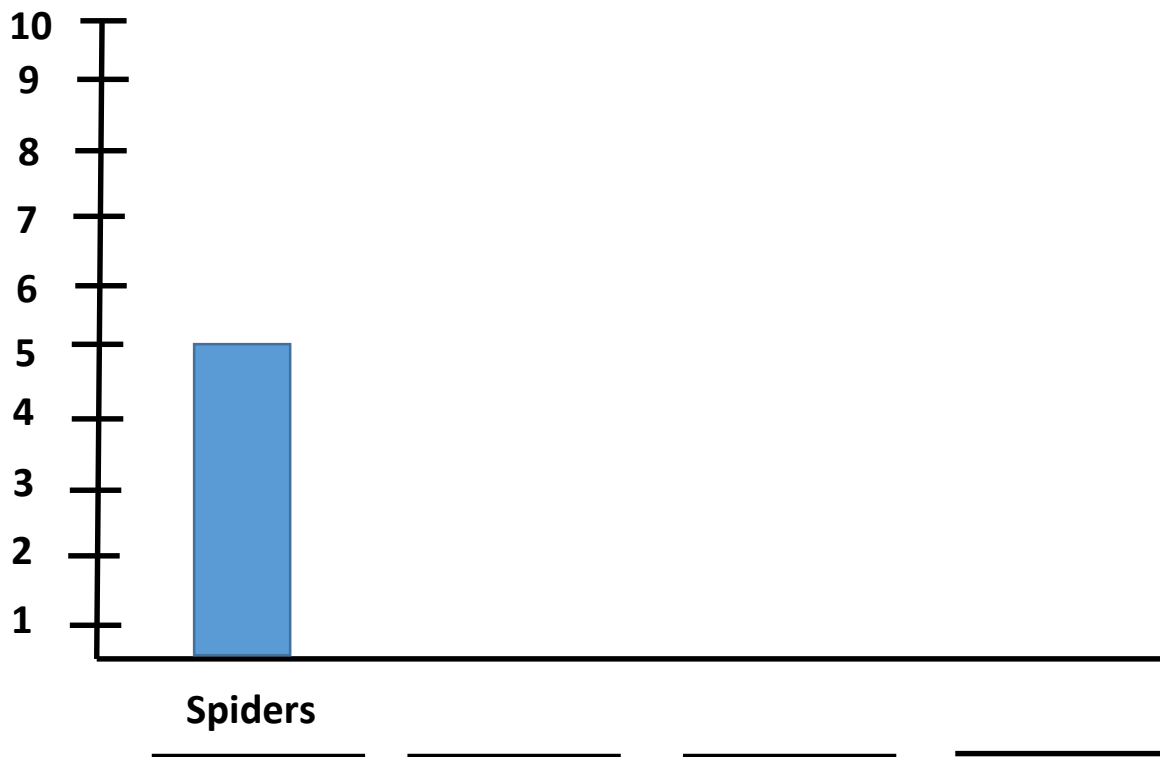
Collect Your Data – Count and Identify Your Species

Place tally marks next to the animals that you see in your 1-ft by 1-ft square plot.

	_____		_____	<div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px; width: 100px; height: 80px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">OTHER</div>	_____
BEETLE		EARTHWORM			
	_____		_____	<div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px; width: 100px; height: 80px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">OTHER</div>	_____
SNAIL/SLUG		SPIDER			
	_____		_____	<div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px; width: 100px; height: 80px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">OTHER</div>	_____
PILL BUG		ANT			
	_____		_____	<div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px; width: 100px; height: 80px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">OTHER</div>	_____
FLY		CENTIPEDE			

Display Your Results

What 3 species did you find the most in your square plot? Graph them on the bar chart.



EXAMPLE

Additional Observations **Explore!**

Continue to explore your backyard, park or greenspace! In the space below, list the names of all of the animals (ladybugs, robins, squirrels...) that you find. If you don't know the names, take photos, sketch pictures or describe them. Be sure to look under rocks, logs, or flower pots. Can you find evidence of animals even if you don't see them? Do you see animal tracks, scat (feces), or hear bird calls? Note that in the space as well.

Animal List:

Field Notes & Sketches:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

Use additional paper if you need more space.

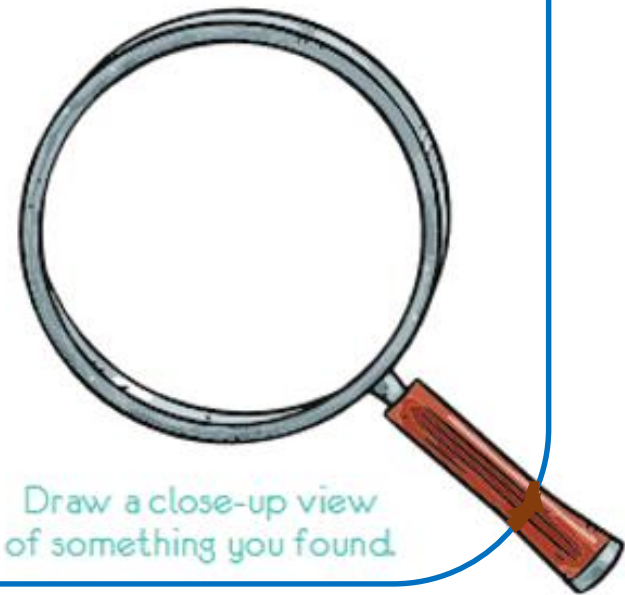
How many different types of animals (slugs, crows, worms...) did you find? _____

Which animal did you see the most? _____

Did anything surprise you? _____

My Favorite Bioblitz Animal

This is what it looks like in its **habitat**, or where it lives!



Draw a close-up view
of something you found.

Remember your ABCs: Accurate, Big, Color!

It is my favorite because....

It protects itself by....

One thing I learned about this animal is...