

NATURE BIODIVERSITY QUADRAT STUDY

Build your own quadrat and complete a study of the wildlife in an outdoor area. Ideally, somewhere with grass/plants/soil.

**WATCH
THE VIDEO**

 tinyurl.com/HOC105

Please note: These videos were created to assist home learning during lockdown. They are still great to use in the classroom though.

Takes: 15 mins +

Where? In garden

Who? Individual, pairs or small groups work great for this

You will need:

A pen or pencil and a piece of paper



A square frame cut out of a large piece of cardboard (e.g. empty cereal box)



Access to the Biological Records Centre's iRecord website if you'd like to submit your findings

www.brc.ac.uk/irecord

Safety

Children should remain supervised throughout and thoroughly wash their hands afterwards

Share what you find with us at
#outdoorcentresathome

How to log species diversity

- 1 Choose a species to focus on and record. For example; daisies, ants or dandelions.



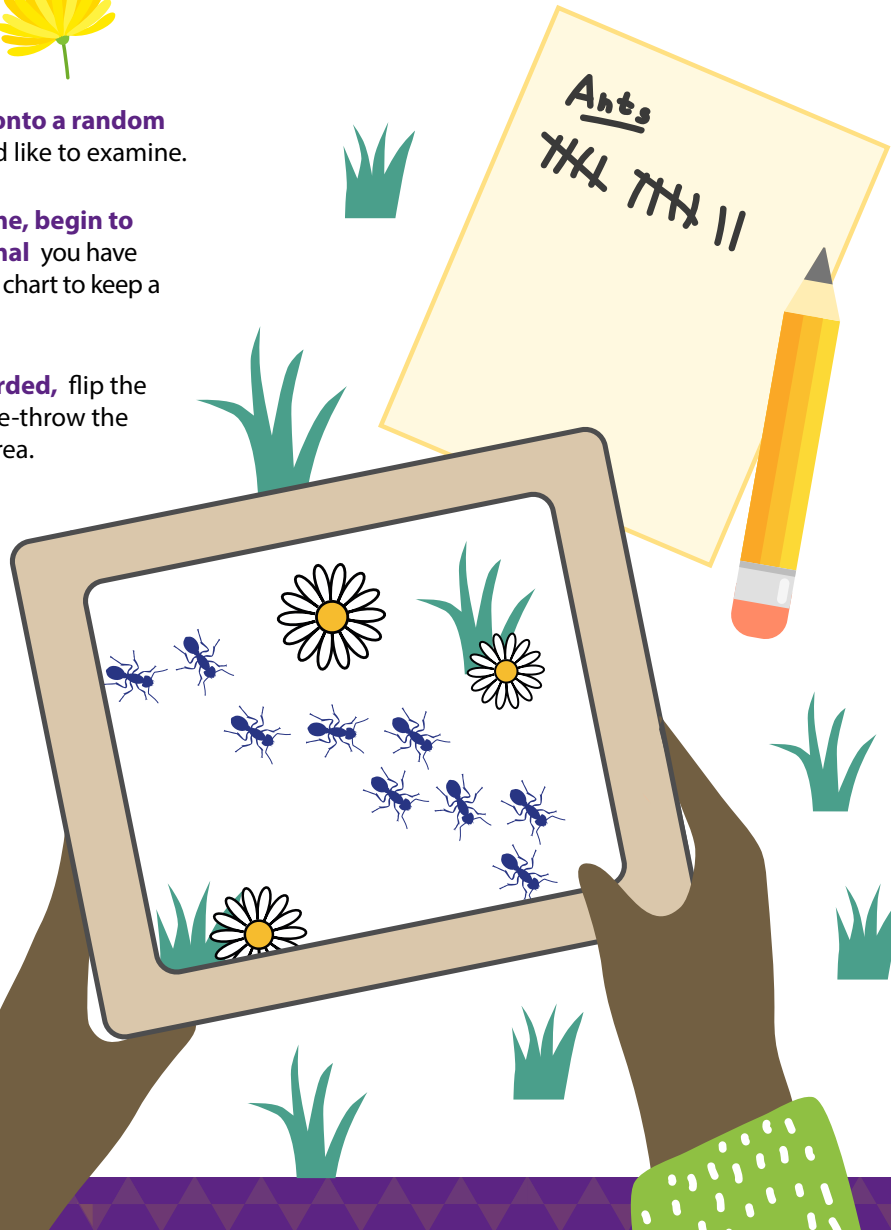
- 2 Throw your homemade quadrat onto a random spot of grass or the area you would like to examine.

- 3 Without moving the quadrat frame, begin to count the species of plant or animal you have decided to record. You can use a tally chart to keep a record.

- 4 Once the counting has been recorded, flip the quadrat over to an adjacent area or re-throw the quadrat to a completely different area.

- 5 Repeat the counting and logging process as many times as you like – try for ten if you can.

- 6 Look for patterns: Do you tend to find more of your species in any particular areas? For example: are there more daisies in the shady areas of the garden?



Review and reflection

Counting and logging species diversity is a fantastic way to learn more about what wildlife and living organisms reside in our gardens. It provides an insight into how ecologists randomly sample an area which in turn, helps us understand more about what we share our environment with.

Here are some questions to help you reflect on this activity. We use this kind of reflective exercise to get the most out of the activities at our centres.

Did you expect to find all that you did?

Was there anything you saw that you thought was unusual?

Were you surprised by the variety of living things in your garden?

How did it feel to be hands-on with nature?