

Creature Counts

Goal: Observe the animals that are all around us: at the park, in a pond, on the sidewalk, in a patch of weeds, in an alleyway, on a farm, in the trees, etc. Record data for what you see, hear, and notice.

You might use:

- Pencil, paper, cell phone, or other device
- Binoculars or a magnifying glass

What to do:

- Decide where you will observe animals and how long you will spend looking. Decide how you will keep track of what you see. You might make a list with tally marks. You might use a cell phone to take pictures of what you see. How else could you keep track of what you observe?
- Share your observations with someone else.

Things you might want to try:

- Make a frame with four strips of paper. Place the frame on the ground in a location that you want to observe. Record the number of creatures you observe within the frame in a ten-minute period. Try this at different times of the day and locations and compare what you observe.
- Look for creatures living in a container filled with rainwater or pond water. You might use a magnifying glass. What do you notice? Study the container over several days. Do you notice any changes?
- Use binoculars to watch birds in your neighborhood. How many varieties do you notice? Learn how to identify the birds you see and teach someone else how to recognize them.
- Carefully turn over a stone or log and observe the creatures that live underneath it. After you've recorded your observations, carefully return the stone or log to its original position.



Creature	Tally	Total
snail	IIII	4
cricket	II	2
spider	III	3
isopod	IIII	5
beetle	IIII I	6
ant	IIII III	8
worm	IIII	4

