

Name: _____

Class: _____

Making observations of the environment-

Purpose- In this activity students will make observations of an environment recording biotic and abiotic features. Students will also determine how things interact with each other to make the specific environment work.

Materials-

4 large stake devices
4 meters of string
Meter stick

Optional materials

Hand lens
metric ruler

Procedure-

1. Go to the area designated by your instructor with your materials
2. Mark out your plot using your meter stick to measure 1 meter on each side
3. Place a stake in each corner of your plot
4. Tie the string around one stake and then take it around the others back to the starting stake and tie the other end of the string to the same stake. (This should create a box plot with the string)
5. You have delimited the ecosystem you are sampling.
6. Observe very closely what is within the boundaries of the ecosystem.
5. Record what biotic and abiotic features you see within your plot in your INB.
6. On the same page in your INB, sketch drawings of 2 biotic and 2 abiotic features.
7. Record your thoughts on this question- "How do you think the biotic things relate to each other and to the abiotic things in this ecosystem?"
8. Record your thoughts on this question- "What would happen if one of the components was lost or reduced?"
9. When it is time, the teacher will tell you to clean up. Clean up requires you to pull the stakes from the ground and wipe off excess dirt from them. Clean up requires the string to be removed from the stakes and it will be place in the trash upon returning to the classroom. Clean up requires all materials to be returned to the classroom and placed in the appropriate place.