

Outdoor fieldwork: what is on the ground?

Audience: Reception to Year 6 pupils with adult supervision

Record ground-cover observations in four equal parts of each teacher-selected plot and compare two plots without disturbing wildlife.

Date: _____ Visit start time: _____ End time: _____ Site name/location: _____
Adult leader: _____ Plot A identifier: _____ Plot B identifier: _____

Four-point sampling layout

For each teacher-marked plot, use the same four positions: north-west, north-east, south-west and south-east. The teacher selects and marks both boundaries.

At each point, record one category directly beneath it: grass, leaf litter or bare ground. Do not collect plants or disturb animals.

Plot and point	Ground cover: grass / leaf litter / bare ground	Shade / sun	Sketch or note
A NW			
A NE			
A SW			
A SE			
B NW			
B NE			
B SW			
B SE			

Compare and conclude

Plot A counts: grass ___ / 4; leaf litter ___ / 4; bare ground ___ / 4.

Plot B counts: grass ___ / 4; leaf litter ___ / 4; bare ground ___ / 4.

Conclusion: The plots were alike/different because _____.

Evidence from my records: _____.

This is an original ground-cover sampling edition. It does not reproduce the supplied river measurements or discharge task.