

Steps to conducting a leaf pack experiment.

(based on the Leaf Pack Network manual found at www.stroudcenter.org)

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| Determine the purpose | With the help of a naturalist at the local nature center and maps, students identified three different sections in the stream to use as variables: stream head, riffles, and eddies. We studied macroinvertebrates and how stressors can affect the stream's carrying capacity. |
| Decide on a location(s) | We chose two different streams, a forest or meadow stream at the nature center and the village stream that runs through our school property to compare data. |
| Fill out the online data application at the Leaf Pack Network website to submit student data | www.stroudcenter.org |
| Prepare leaf packs | We first identified the trees that surrounded the different stream locations. Then we prepared leaf packs using the three most common leaves. |
| Place leaf packs | We placed leaf packs in three different locations of our two streams as determined by our variables: the locations. At this time students completed Habitat and Field Data Sheets (also found in manual) |
| Process leaf packs (3–4 weeks later) | Students and parents completed Macroinvertebrate Data Sheets (see manual), with the help of naturalist at the nature center and then returned to school stream to collect data there. |
| Submit data to Leaf Pack Network | Students and parents were surprised at the differences between the macroinvertebrate populations in both streams and were pleased that the data was being submitted to an online data base, even though it was limited. |