

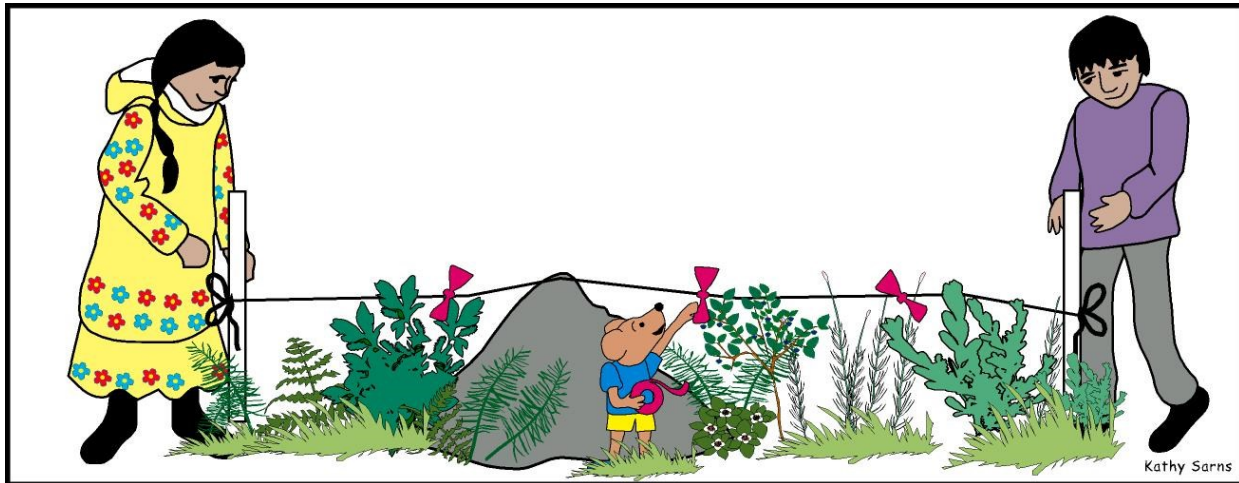
TRANSECT FIELD INVESTIGATION

READ as a group: Today you will be investigating what kinds of organisms might live in the brownfield and what kind of terrain is here. Terrain is the physical features of the land—is it rocky, is it flat, is it a hill, etc... Organisms are all the living things—plants, animals... bugs, bacteria... fungi, mold and mushrooms— are all living things we might find.

Sometimes we only see evidence of a living thing—like nests, animal tracks, etc can tell us if an animal was there. These can also be included in our study today.

DIRECTIONS:

1. You have been assigned Transect Line Number _____



2. The transect marks one small area. Combining data from all the groups will give us a good idea of the kind of ecosystem here at the brownfield. The flags along the line mark every 5 meters.
3. Split into two parts— each pair or triplet will walk along half of the transect (10 meters each) - decide who will go to the front half and who will go to the back half
4. As you walk along the line, record on your paper what organisms you see that are within arms width on either side of the line from the soil all the way up to the sky. Draw pictures of the leaves, bark and other identifying parts of the organisms you see.
5. When you've drawn a plant once, if you see more, you can use a symbol to represent it in other places you see it.
6. Record what you hear, smell and feel by touch as well. Use three descriptive words to describe the soil.

START by reading Here

"DON'T TEAR ME APART OR CRUSH MY HOME" GUIDELINES FOR INVESTIGATING AN ENVIRONMENT



If plants and animals could talk, this is what they might say to someone carelessly trampling through their home. It is important to be aware of your actions when exploring the habitat.

Rules:

1. Stay on the line! You should be right along your transect line. Don't wander.
2. Do not eat anything!
3. Leave only with what you brought! Don't leave anything behind! We want to leave nature, natural.
4. To see wildlife, you must be very quiet and move slowly so you don't frighten wildlife away. Keep a safe distance from any animals for your protection and theirs!

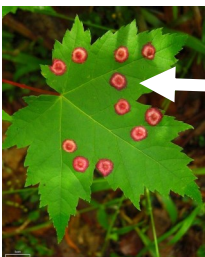
Now turn to the back of this page and read together before starting the field study. Below are example pictures from a transect.



These people are investigating along a transect

Below is an example of how your transect notes could look in the field investigation booklet. Notice there are symbols drawn for things seen several times and the number of each found is recorded.

Indian paintbrush	Moss	Buttercup	Wild strawberry	Grass	Patchy	White pine	Red spider	Ant	Flea	Leech	Painted turtle	Frogs	Water spider	Gray bug	Mosquito	Dragonfly	Goldenrod	Dock		
6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Fly	Flea	Tiny black fly	Red spider	Ant	Flea	Leech	Painted turtle	Frogs	Water spider	Gray bug	Mosquito	Black spider	Dragonfly	Red spider	Flea	Leech	Black ants	Black ants	Black ants	Black ants



Signs of winter insects
Look for insect galls!

