



Introduction to Journaling and Phenology

Worksheet

Explore an outdoor space for things listed below. If you do not see anything for one of the categories, record that nothing is present at this time. If you are unsure about what you are seeing, record that as well, and include enough information so that you might do some research into what you may have seen. Think deeply about the observations you make and provide as much detail as you can about the items on the list and the surrounding environment. If you don't feel as though you can answer a few questions in each category, do what you can. Some of the words and topics might be new vocabulary for you or new concepts. Highlight those and take some time to learn more about those concepts when you return indoors.

Take as much time as you need to pay attention and answer these questions as carefully as you can.

Name _____ Date _____

Weather conditions _____

Season of year _____

Time spent observing _____

Circle the method used for observing animals (circle one):

Transect walk Stationary (single point) Incidental sighting Area search

Did you notice (hear or see) birds? (circle one):

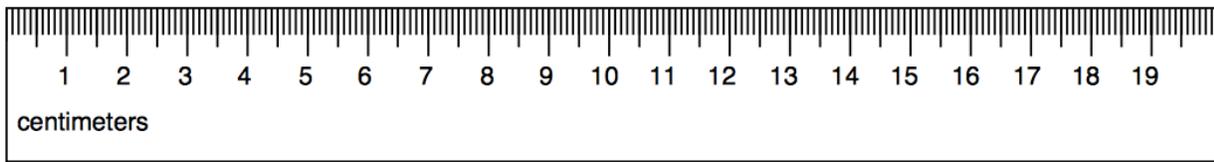
Yes, I saw a bird(s) No, I did not see a bird(s) I heard a bird, but did not see it

If you heard or saw a bird(s), describe what you heard. Note the number if you were able to count them.

Answer the questions as thoroughly as you can in the allotted time.

1. Find a plant that has green leaves.

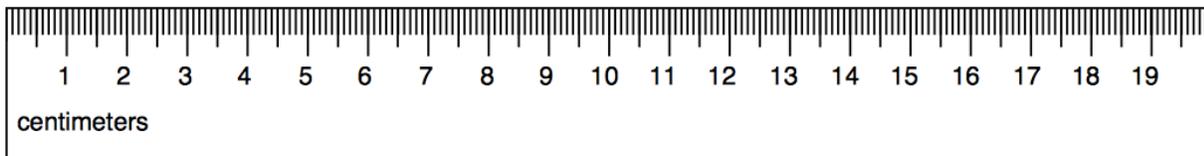
- a. If there are none, record that observation and move on to the next question.
- b. Describe the location of the plant within the site, referencing your description of the site above, so you, or someone else, can find it again.



- c. Describe or draw the leaves of this plant as best as you can, especially if you don't know what it is. You can use this information to identify it later. Be sure to include as much information as you can about the size and shape of the leaves.
- d. Describe or draw the entire plant as best as you can, especially if you don't know what it is. You can use this information to identify it later. Be sure to include as much information as you can about the size of the plant.
- e. If known, what is the name of the plant (common or scientific)?
- g. Estimate, in a percent, the amount of canopy cover on the plant. Canopy cover is the area occupied by the upper layer of vegetation (such as leaves, tree crowns, etc.). Do you think it has reached its full canopy potential?
- < 5% 5-24% 25-49% 50-74% 75-94% > 95%
- f. What type of leaves are on the plant?
- Young / New Present for awhile Not sure

2. Find a second plant in bloom.

- a. If there are none, record that observation.
- b. Describe the location of the plant within the site, referencing your description of the site above, so you, or someone else, can find it again.



- c. Describe or draw a fully open bloom on this plant as best as you can, especially if you don't know what it is. You can use this information to identify it later. Be sure to include as much information as you can about the size of the bloom.

- e. How many blooms are there on the plant?

- f. Describe or draw the entire plant as best as you can, especially if you don't know what it is. You can use this information to identify it later. Be sure to include as much information as you can about the size of the plant.

- g. If known, what is the name of the plant (common or scientific)?

3. Find a third plant bearing fruit.

- a. If there are none, record that observation.

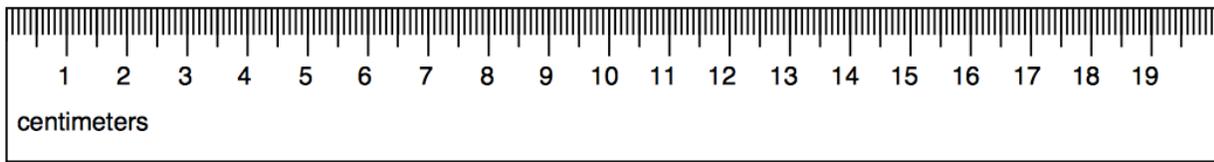
- b. Describe the location of the plant within the site, referencing your description of the site above, so you, or someone else, can find it again.

- c. Describe or draw a fruit on this plant as best as you can, especially if you don't know what it is. You can use this information to identify it later. Be sure to include as much information as you can about the size and shape of the fruit.

- d. Describe or draw the entire plant as best as you can, especially if you don't know what it is. You can use this information to identify it later. Be sure to include as much information as you can about the size and shape of the plant.

- e. How many fruits are there on the plant?

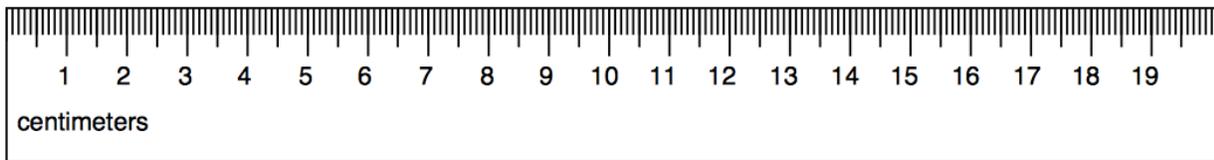
- h. If known, what is the name of the plant (common or scientific)?



- 4. Locate an active pollinator.** A pollinator is an animal that helps plants to reproduce.
- a. If there are none, record that observation and move on to the next question.
 - b. Describe the location of the pollinator within the site, referencing your description of the site above.
 - c. Describe the pollinator in detail, especially if you don't know what it is, so you can identify it later.
 - d. Describe or draw what it is doing when you saw it.
 - e. How many pollinators of this type are at this location?
 - f. If known, what is the name of the pollinator (common or scientific)?

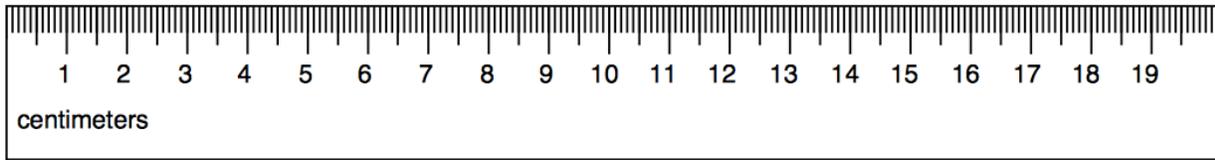
5. Search for an insect (small animal with 6 legs and generally 1-2 pairs of wings) or an arachnid (small animal with 8 legs).

- a. If there are none, record that observation.
- b. Describe the insect in detail, especially if you don't know what it is, so you can identify it later. Describe or draw what it is doing when you saw it.
- c. How many insects or arachnids of this type are at this location?
- d. If known, what is the name of the insect (common or scientific)?



Map of Location

Provide a DETAILED description of your observation location. Describe what you see around you, note any landmarks, include note-able plants and animals, or draw a sketch of the trail and indicate where you are standing. For example, if you are in a demonstration garden at a nature center, describe it and draw a map if you can. Be sure to provide enough information such that someone who is not familiar with the site could easily locate it from your description. If you can, draw what you see as well as describe it.



Notes & Sketches

Use the space provided below to add other observations you make while you are participating in this activity.