

Investigate How many living things can you find in a square meter?

Materials

meterstick

4 wooden stakes or
4 unsharpened pencils

string

large sheet of
drawing paper

pencil

What to Do

- 1 Select an area of the schoolyard to investigate.
- 2 Use a meterstick to measure off 1 meter on the ground. Push a wooden stake or pencil into the ground at each end of the length of the meter. Connect the stakes with string.
- 3 Measure off the rest of a square and mark with two more stakes in the other corners. Tie the string around the remaining stakes to form a square.

- 4 The area inside the stakes and string is 1 square meter of space. Make a pencil drawing of your living square meter on a large sheet of drawing paper.
- 5 What kinds of organisms will you find in your square meter? Write your predictions.
- 6 Carefully examine every part of your square meter. Turn over rocks and look on the underside of leaves. Make a list of all the living things and nonliving things you find on your chart. Count or estimate the number of organisms in each category.
- 7 Look at your living square meter a week later. How has it changed? Which animals really make their home there? Which are just feeding or passing through?

Explain Your Results

1. How do your lists compare to your predictions?
2. Which living things are the most common in your square meter?
3. Use your lists to show how the plants and animals are dependent on one another.

Data and Observations

Kinds of Living Things	Predictions	Observations	Approximate Number
Plant Life			
Small Animals (Insects, Worms, etc.)			
Larger Animals (Birds, Frogs, etc.)			