

How can we investigate species numbers?

Scout and Vinnie investigate species near the river. What will they find?



Key Question

Key Stage 1:

What animals/ groups of animals might live near a river?

Key Stage 2:

Why is a transect a useful sampling technique?



Activity

Transects



1. Students can complete the worksheet in groups of 2-4
2. Each group should collect a hula hoop (and bug pots if using)
3. As a class, walk a 20m transect line together outside and place a cone at each metre mark
4. Groups can place their hoops anywhere along the line and then count all the species that they can identify in that hoop; insects and plants. They can fill these in on the transect worksheet
5. Students can then place their hoop at another point on the transect line and repeat the process up to 8 times.
6. Ask groups to compare what species they have found

Equipment:



- Outdoor grassy space
- Hula hoops
- Plastic cones
- Clipboard
- Transect worksheet print outs
- Optional – spotter guides and bug pots



Top Tip:

Use a spotter guide to help identify species.

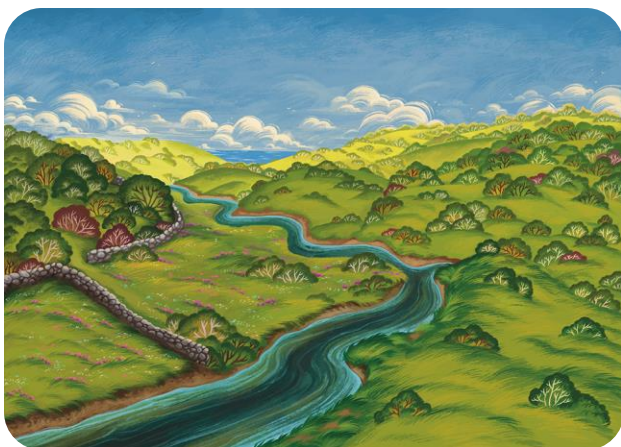


How can we investigate species numbers?



Key points:

- A transect is a way of sampling the species living in a habitat by cutting through the landscape in a straight line.
- This helps us to record how many animal or plant species are within an area and the gradual change over the total distance covered



More questions to ask:

1. Why might different species prefer different habitats?
2. Why is it important to record and track wildlife numbers?
3. Why is it important to record the weather while doing a transect?
4. Why are transects useful to investigate rivers?

Further Resources:

For more activities, worksheets and lessons, visit theriverstrust.org by scanning Scouts QR code!

With thanks to:



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Apply to different learners:

1. **More support:** create a spotting guide with the species that they might see, go through their features beforehand.
2. **Challenge:**
 - Students can sample another habitat (field or near a water source etc.) and compare their results between different habitats
 - What different species were found in the different habitats and why?
 - Why is the transect a good way of sampling the species?

Other activities you could try:

1. Arrange a trip to your local watercourse (river, brook, stream)
2. Minibeast hunts
3. Plots and transects
4. Kick sampling in your local river
5. Land on the habitat game



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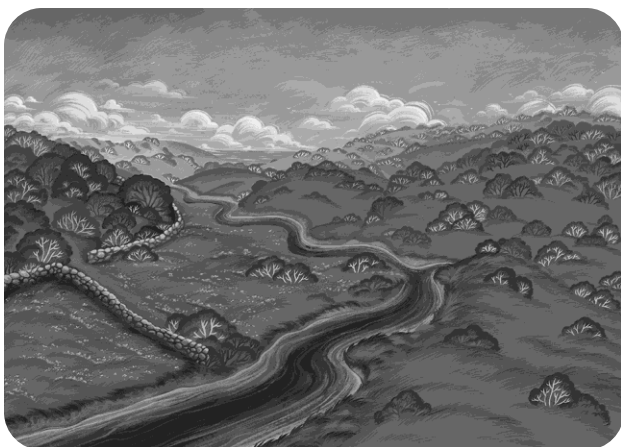


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2. Minibeast hunts
3. Plots and transects
4. Kick sampling in your local river
5. Land on the habitat game

