



BIODIVERSITY BUTTERFLY TIMED COUNT

Biodiversity refers to the variety in type and number of different species of plants and animals that you may find in an area. Native plants and trees found in the Tiny Forest can support biodiversity by providing habitats and resources for a broad range of species. In this survey, you will investigate the biodiversity of the forest by identifying and recording the different species and number of butterflies you observe.

EQUIPMENT PER GROUP:

- 1 x Timer
- 1 x Butterfly ID guide
- 1 x Tablet/phone/printed field sheet

WHEN TO SURVEY

Ideally when it is warm (middle of the day to afternoon) and if possible, when the forest is not too disturbed by people.

May to September is best. Different species will be in flight at different times of year, but generally late spring and summer are best for seeing butterflies.

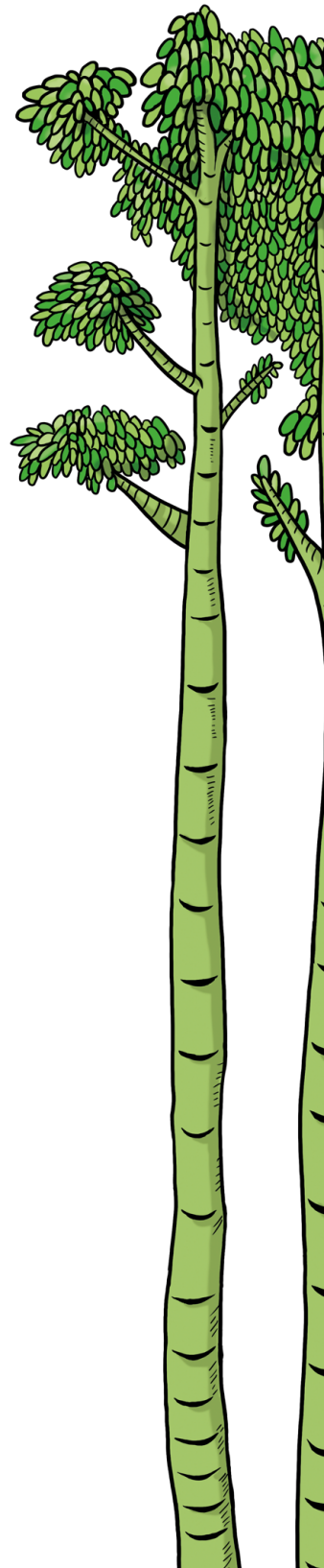
INSTRUCTIONS

In this survey you will be identifying and counting butterflies for 15 minutes.

STEP 1:

Begin by choosing where you will stand to do your butterfly count from. Choose somewhere either inside or outside the Tiny Forest where you have a good view of the whole forest. Once you have chosen where to do your count, use the diagram and notes below to help you classify it. Record this on your tablet, phone or printed field sheet.

Middle: A Tiny Forest cannot be less than 4m wide at any one point. If you are 2m or more away from any edges, including where the classroom area starts, then you are in the middle of the forest. The middle is shown in light green in the diagram below.

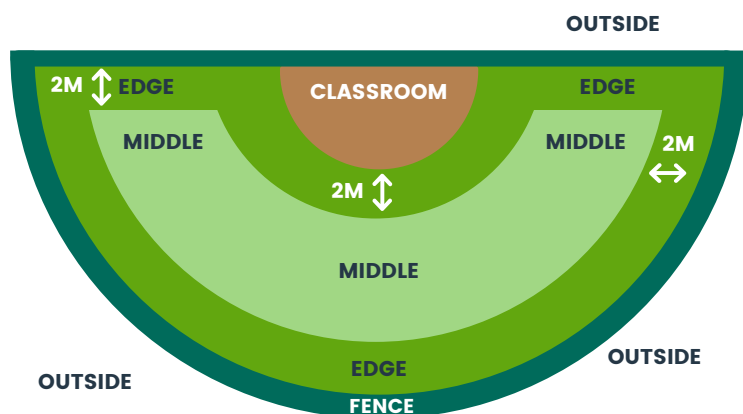


Edge: If you are 2m or less away from an area where there are no planted trees, including the classroom area, then you are at the edge of the Tiny Forest. The edge is shown in dark green in the diagram below.

Classroom: If the Tiny Forest has a classroom area then this will be inside the fence, but there are no trees planted, and the ground is likely to be covered in wood chip.

Outside: This is a sampling location that is not in the Tiny Forest at all. There are no planted trees around you, and you are not in the classroom area either. If the Tiny Forest is fenced then you should be on the outside of the fence.

Use the example diagram below to help.



STEP 2:

Take a look at the Butterfly ID guide before you get started. Find a comfortable spot and begin your 15-minute timer.

Try to remain still and quiet for the full 15-minute period, so as not to disturb any butterflies. You should observe the whole of the Tiny Forest during your survey period.

On your tablet, phone or field sheet, note any butterfly species you see in, or directly above, the forest. If you use the printed field sheet, keep track of the **maximum number** of any species you see in the forest **at the same time** and write it down at the end of the sheet. If you work with a tablet or phone, use the list to keep track of what you have seen and record the maximum number for each species at the end of the count.

As an example, during your butterfly count, you see a red admiral butterfly. If you see three red admiral butterflies at the same time then you can record the number of red admirals as three. If, however, you see one red admiral at minute two and then two red admirals at minute five, then the maximum number you have seen together at the same time is two (not three). To get the most out of this activity, try to switch off from distractions, tune in to the sounds of the Tiny Forest and take deep breaths as you start to engage with the forest and the creatures that live there.



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