



BIODIVERSITY GROUND DWELLER SURVEY

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 ground dwellers (invertebrates) that you observe.

EQUIPMENT:

- 1 x Ground dwellers ID guide
- 1 x Camera (optional)
- 1 x Tablet/phone/field sheet

WHEN TO SURVEY

Any time of day. But note that each biodiversity tile can only be looked underneath once per day. Otherwise this will disturb the organisms living beneath it and mean that the data is not representative.

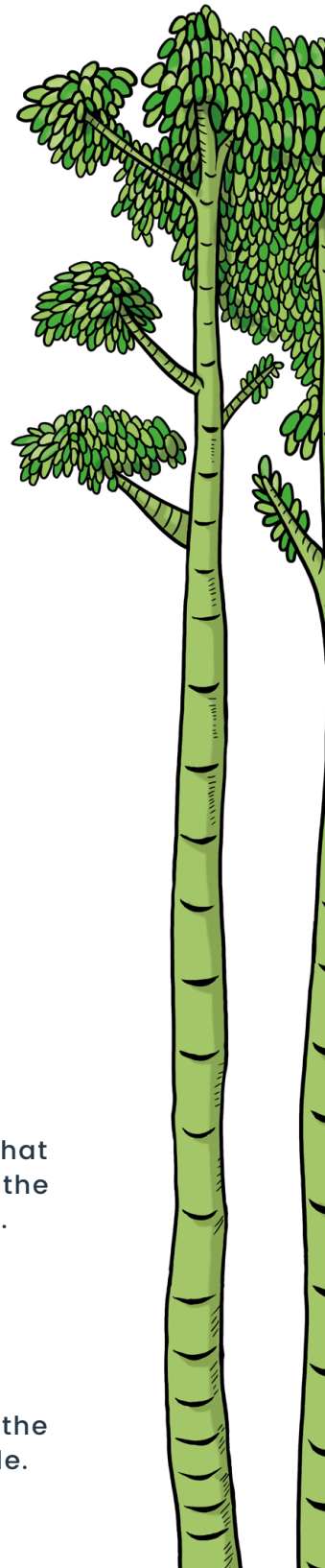
Any time of year.

INSTRUCTIONS

In this biodiversity survey we will look at what organisms are living in the soil, using the biodiversity tiles laid out throughout the forest.

STEP 1 :

Locate one of the biodiversity tiles within the forest. There will be a number written on the tile.



STEP 2:

Before you lift the tile, look at the ground dweller ID sheet. This will help you to know what to look out for, as some of the creatures living under the tile may run away. It may be helpful to take a photo of what is underneath as soon as you lift the tile. You can then use the picture to help you identify the different groups.

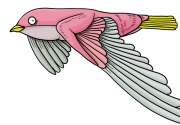
Lift up the tile to see what is living beneath it. When lifting the tile, take care of fingers as the tile might be heavy.

The aim is to see what different creatures are present beneath or stuck to the underside of your tile.

You should make an estimate of how many individuals of each group you see. We have shown the most common groups of animals on the ID list. Don't worry about counting every individual, just select the most appropriate category from the list of options on your tablet, phone or field sheet.

Identifying invertebrates like these to a particular species requires specialist knowledge, but your observations of the numbers of these easily recognised groups present will give us a good idea of how the forest and soil biodiversity are developing.

Once you have finished with the identification and counting, gently place the tile back exactly where it was initially. Be gentle and don't drop it, so as to minimise the risk of harming invertebrates.



DID YOU KNOW?

Woodlice are a type of crustacean, which means that they are more closely related to crabs than many other insects!