

Creature Counts

Inspired by *Bird Count* by Susan Edwards Richmond

Goal: Observe the animals that are all around us: at the park, in a pond, on the sidewalk, in a patch of weeds, in an alleyway, on a farm, in the trees, etc. Record data for what you see, hear, and notice.

You might use:

- Pencil, paper, cell phone, or other device
- Binoculars or a magnifying glass

What to do:

- Decide where you will observe animals and how long you will spend looking. Decide how you will keep track of what you see. You might make a list with tally marks. You might use a cell phone to take pictures of what you see. How else could you keep track of what you observe?
- Share your observations with someone else.

Things you might want to try:

- Make a frame with four strips of paper. Place the frame on the ground in a location that you want to observe. Record the number of creatures you observe within the frame in a ten-minute period. Try this at different times of the day and locations and compare what you observe.
- Look for creatures living in a container filled with rainwater or pond water. You might use a magnifying glass. What do you notice? Study the container over several days. Do you notice any changes?
- Use binoculars to watch birds in your neighborhood. How many varieties do you notice? Learn how to identify the birds you see and teach someone else how to recognize them.
- Carefully turn over a stone or log and observe the creatures that live underneath it. After you've recorded your observations, carefully return the stone or log to its original position.



Creature	Tally	Total
snail		4
cricket		2
spider		3
isopod		5
beetle		6
ant		8
worm		4