



Ecology Explorers Lesson Plan

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School: McKemy Middle School
Thunder Mountain Middle School

Grade: Middle School 6-8

Title: Schoolyard Bird Project

Due to the large number of students in most classes this activity has been divided into two groups. The activity is designed to encompass two days allowing each group to experience each activity.

Brief Description:

Group 1 - Students will set up bird count sites in the school yard and compare the numbers of birds seen at the same site at different times of the day, throughout the school year (once per quarter).

Group 2 - Students will observe and record bird sightings around the schoolyard.

Ecology Explorers Protocol: Birds

Objectives:

Group 1

- Students will be able to create a point count circle.
- Students will be able to collect point count data.
- Students will be able to create a bar or line graph for all data

Group 2

- Students will be able to record data based on their observations

State Standards:

Science 1SC-E1, PO1, PO3, PO4, 1SC-E3, PO1, PO2, 2SC-E4, PO1
2SC-E5, PO1-3

Math 1M-E5, PO2, 2M-E1, PO1-3, 2M-E2, PO1-PO4, 2M-E3, PO1-PO4,
1M-E6, PO2, 5M-E1, 5M-E2, 5M-E4, PO2, 5M-E6



CES
Center for Environmental Studies





Materials:

Group 1

- pole with 20 meter length of rope attached.
- fluorescent ground markers (flags).
- data sheet for each point count.
- student timer
- student counter

Group 2

- binoculars for each two students.
- data sheet

Procedures:

Group 1 - Six bird count sites will be created. The students will measure their assigned plot and make note of the center for future reference. Students will be assigned to the same plot for the entire year.

Students will gather the data requested on the data sheet, including the following:

1. The approximate location of your plot.
2. Habitat description: type of ground cover and number of trees (and kind if known).
3. Note the date, time of day and weather conditions during the time of your count.
4. Count and identify the bird species you see during your count. If you can't identify a bird, write down a detailed description and we'll try to identify it later with our reference books.

Group 2 - Students will proceed to a location in the schoolyard away from the point count circles.

- Students will gather data about the birds they see around the schoolyard.

