

BIODIVERSITY INDEX – DATA COLLECTION

As a class you will be collecting information about the biodiversity of your schoolyard. You will be recording information on the population of living things in different areas around the school. Quietly observe your area and record the species and population numbers you observe, using Table 1: Species Observations.

Note: You do not need to know the scientific names, just make sure you record everything you see including different types of plants. This task is about collecting and analysing the data so you can simply describe the species you observe. Examples of categories include: mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects, trees, shrubs, small plants, grasses, fungi, moss and lichen.

Table 1: Species Observation

Group number	
Description of area:	
Species names	Populations observed
Total species:	Total organisms:

BIODIVERSITY INDEX – DATA COLLECTION

Display your data using a column graph where the species name as the category on the x-axis and the population observed as the frequency on the y-axis.



Which category is most common?

PAGE 2.

BIODIVERSITY INDEX – DATA COLLECTION

Now group your data using Plant and Not Plant categories and create a new column graph using these two categories.

Table 2: Plant and Non-Plant

	Total organisms in each category
Plant	
Non-Plant	



Which category was most common?

BIODIVERSITY INDEX – DATA COLLECTION

It is estimated that world wide there are thousands more species of plants than animals.

Do your statistics support this statement? Explain your answer by describing your area in comparison to the entire schoolyard.

We now want to further investigate the Biodiversity of you area.

A Biodiversity Index is a measure of the health of an ecosystem. Calculate the Biodiversity Index of your area using the formula:

$$\text{BIODIVERSITY INDEX} = \frac{\text{TOTAL NUMBER OF SPECIES}}{\text{TOTAL NUMBER OF ORGANISMS}}$$

The Biodiversity Index of my area is:

Note: This will be an estimate as to calculate the exact Biodiversity index you need to count EVERY living thing!

Do you think this is an accurate representation of the Biodiversity of the entire school? Why/Why not?

What was the mean population of a species in your area?