

GROUND DWELLERS SURVEY

Biodiversity is the variety in type and number of different plant and animal species in an area. Ground dwelling species perform lots of important jobs, such as breaking down leaves, so that all the nutrients they contain are given to the soil.

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

EQUIPMENT PER GROUP:

- 1 x Ground dwellers ID guide
- 1 x Tablet/phone/field sheet

WHEN TO SURVEY

Any time of day.

N.B. each biodiversity tile can only be looked underneath once per day. Otherwise the organisms living beneath it will be disturbed and the data won't be representative.



INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1

- Locate one of the biodiversity tiles within the forest.
- Record the number written on the tile.

STEP 2

- Record your level of identification experience, then look at the ground dweller ID guide before you lift the tile. This will help you to know what to look for, as some of the creatures living under the tile may run away.
- Record the organisms beneath the tile. Lift up the tile and record the total number of each group living beneath it. Don't forget to check the underside of the tile as well.
- Carefully replace the tile. Once you have finished with the identification and counting, gently place the tile back exactly where it was.



STAY IN TOUCH