

BUTTERFLIES TIMED COUNT

Biodiversity means the variety of life in the natural world around us. Native plants and trees found in the Tiny Forest support biodiversity by providing habitats and resources for a broad range of species, including butterflies. We can investigate the biodiversity of the forest by identifying and recording the different species and number of butterflies we observe.

EQUIPMENT PER GROUP:

- 1 x Timer
- 1 x Butterfly ID guide
- 1 x Tablet/phone/printed field sheet

WHEN TO SURVEY

The best time to see butterflies is May to September. Ideally on a calm day with low wind, around midday - early afternoon when it is warmest, with few people around.

INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1:

- Record your butterfly count location. Choose a location inside or outside (includes paths and classroom area) the Tiny Forest, where you can see the entire area. Record your location. If you are inside, select how away from an edge you are

See the diagram (right) to help you define where you are.

STEP 2:

- Record your level of experience in butterfly identification. Before you start your observations, record your level of experience in identifying butterflies and familiarise yourself with the Butterfly ID guide.
- Begin the 15-minute timer and observe the whole of the Tiny Forest during this time.
- Record the abundance of each butterfly species you see in or above the forest. Record the maximum number for each butterfly species at the same time i.e. if you see three red admiral butterflies in your patch at the same time, you can record the abundance as three. If however, you see one red admiral at minute two and two red admirals later, then the maximum number of red admiral butterflies you have seen at the same time is two (not three).

