

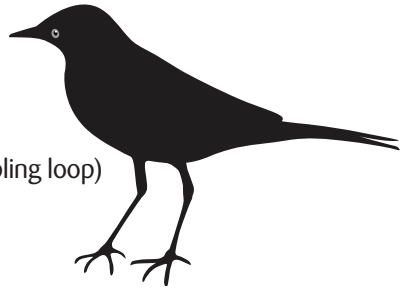
Backyard Ecology

Your backyard is a great place to make observations about the natural environment where you live. You will likely find some plants, insects, birds and small animals (squirrels or chipmunks) plus soil and rocks. Many natural scientists do their work by recording observations to help them learn about the environment and identify what they see.



Materials

- Binoculars
- Magnifying glass
- Bird ID sheet
- Three feet of string (for ground sampling loop)
- Observation sheet



Activities

Bird watching

Put your binoculars together by pressing on both of the outside fold lines. This causes the binoculars to pop out. You can now look through the smaller lens to observe birds, trees and whatever you'd like to see.

Ground Sampling

Tie the ends of your string to form a loop. Open your loop and throw it on the ground or a bush. Use your magnifying glass to see if you find any bugs, new plant growth, different plants, rocks or interesting debris (like decaying leaves).

Record your observations on the sheet.