

Life on the Line-Transect Survey

Name: Adapted from US Forest Service "Life Along the Line"	Time Required: 60 minutes
Subject: Science	Grade Level: 5 th +

Overview	Students will record data of plants growing in a certain area, by using a transect line.
Goal(s) & Objective(s)	Students will be able to count and record the number and types of plants growing in a certain area.
Materials	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Field trip area (vacant field with different plants) 2. 100 ft tape or strings marked every foot 3. Copies of Activity Sheet C
Teaching Activities: <i>Instructional Approaches/Strategies</i>	<p>Introduction:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transect studies are conducted in many scientific fields. Today, you will have a chance to conduct a transect survey of the plant numbers and types growing in an area. <p>Procedures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Handout Activity C. 2. Give Directions on how to use transect line: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick a plot with different plant species and string out transect line. • With a pencil/stick etc. place next to the first mark on your transect line. Press it to the ground. • Record what the pencil is touching (ie. Dirt, rock, grass, shrub, forb, etc.) There should only be one box marked for each foot. 3. After data is recording, complete the summary portion of Activity C. <p>Closure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Have class discuss their findings- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which column had the greatest & least percentage of coverage? What could account for that coverage? • Which plants, if any, tend to be associated with certain areas, such as bare places, curbs, etc? • What reason(s) might account for this
Assessment:	Ask the class to summarize (orally or written): What did you find out about transects today?

Activity C: Transect Survey

Working in groups, stretch a 100 foot tape along the ground where you want to inventory the types of plants in a specific area. Record what you find at each foot along the transect line by putting a check in the appropriate column. *Only one check per row.

Sample Every Foot	Rock	Bare soil	Litter	Annual Grass	Per. Grass	Forb	Shrub	Trees	Animal Signs	Sample every foot	Rock	Bare soil	Litter	Annual Grass	Per.	Forb	Shrub	Trees	Animals signs	
1										51										
2										52										
3										53										
4										54										
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