

Habitat Data Analysis

In your data collection group, discuss the following questions and prepare a summary to share with the class.

1. Identify the species that are observed most frequently in the garden. Suggest reasons why you might have seen these species so repeatedly.

2. Use your observation notes to investigate the relationship between animals and plants in the garden.
 - Are certain types of animals almost always seen on or near certain types of plants?

 - Are some species most frequently seen on or near certain parts of plants (leaf, stem, root, flower, etc.)?

 - Are there animals that you observed only when plants are flowering or only when they have produced a fruit or vegetable?

 - What other patterns did you notice? How might these patterns be related to a species' need to eat, reproduce, and/or protect itself from predators?

3. Complete the environmental “zones” chart below. Use your observation notes to determine whether certain species are found in a specific zone and list them under the appropriate heading in the table.

Environmental Zone Species Comparison		
Shady	vs.	Sunny
Moist	vs.	Dry
Elevated areas (tree leaves, branches)	vs.	Lower areas (soil, ground)

4. Compare the number of different species you observed at the second, non-garden site with the numbers you have observed in the garden. What did you notice? Use data to support your answer.

5. Use your data to create an ecological pyramid depicting the animal and plant life in the garden habitat. An ecological pyramid diagrams energy transfer through an ecosystem, from the producers (plants) at the bottom of the pyramid up through primary consumers (herbivores), secondary consumers (omnivores), and tertiary consumers (carnivores), showing how the amount of available energy and (usually) the number of organisms decreases at each stage.

