

## **CB 11 Who Else Goes to My School?**

In this activity, you will go outdoors in groups to see how many different kinds of living things you can find. You will record the organisms encountered and the locations of each organism. You will try to focus on the subtle differences between organisms, for example the differences between two birds of the same size.

### Materials

- Casio QV2800 Digital Camera

### Procedure

1. Find a place outdoors where you can make a brief visual inspection, looking for organisms.
2. Observe this area carefully for five minutes, making mental notes of organisms that you see.
3. In small groups, predict how many different kinds of organisms you will find around your school. Develop a data table that will show the locations as well as the differences you will find in the organisms. Your teacher will help you construct the table.
4. Return to the outdoors for about 20 minutes. Taking digital images of each new species and making notes of what you see in your Log. Try not to repeat newly encountered individuals of the same species. If you are not sure about a new organism that you encounter, consider it for now a new species. Turn over rocks to see what lives underneath them. Look in parking lots, in puddles, cracks in curbs, walls and eaves of the building, around lights or anywhere else you might find living things. Get close to what you are observing. Try to fill the frame of the digital camera with each new organism you encounter.
5. At the end of twenty minutes report your findings to your group. Also discuss the organisms you thought you should have been found but did not.
6. Now observe and record additional data for another 10 minutes.

### Interpretations

1. How many organisms did you find?
2. How did your prediction compare to what you found?
3. Categorize the types of organisms that you found into groups such as insects, birds, plants, etc. Describe how the organisms in each group differ from each other.
4. What organisms do you know exist in the area you examined? Write a hypothesis that explains why you did not observe all of them.

### Applications

1. How did you decide whether or not to count humans as one of the organisms in your study?
2. What limited your observations?
3. What could you do to find some of the "missing" living things?
4. Complete this statement: "To me biodiversity is....."