

Student Instructions

Describing Habitat Structure



Estimating Land Cover Along Your Trap Line

The following technique can be used to estimate the habitat structure around your trap line.

- 1) Take a piece of 50m-string and mark every 2.5 meters. Lay the string across the trap line. *
- 2) Starting at 0m, at each point place a meter stick. In the first column of the data table, record the type of cover beneath your feet and less than 0.15m (ground cover). Also, in the appropriate column, record any vegetation that is between 0.15m to 1.5m tall (shrubs) and any which is taller than 1.5m (tree). Only write down the type of ground cover that is at that point and touching your meter stick. The ground cover type can be "building" or "cement" as well as plants.
- 3) For each type of land cover, add the number of times it was recorded, divide by the total number of points and multiply by 100. For example if you recorded "shrubs" at 5 of the points and there were 20 points, then shrubs would be 25% of the land cover ($5/20 \times 100$).

*Your trap line is actually 45 m, so you will have 5 m of string left at the end of the line. Measuring from the first cup every 2.5 meters to the last cup will give you 19 points, you can take one more measurement 2.5 m after the last cup to give you a total of 20 points.

Student Data Sheet

Describing Habitat Structure



Data Table for Describing Habitat Structure Along Your Trap Line

Point	0-0.15m				0.15-1.5m Shrubs	> 1.5m Tree Canopy
	Lawn	Gravel or Soil	Pavement or Building	Other Vegetation		
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						

Totals:

Lawn _____ x 100 = _____ %
20

Other Vegetation _____ x 100 = _____ %
20

Gravel/Soil _____ x 100 = _____ %
20

Pavement/Building _____ x 100 = _____ %
20

Shrubs _____ x 100 = _____ %
20

Tree Canopy _____ x 100 = _____ %
20