

# Garden Bird Survey

## Aim

Identify and count birds observed during a specific time frame

## Supplies required

Pencil or marker pen

Survey sheet

Watch or timer

*Data sheets and ID guides downloadable at:*

<https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/science/plants-animals-fungi/animals/birds/garden-bird-surveys/activities-for-schools>

## Protocol

- Find a spot away from other noise and disturbances and ideally stay in one spot for 15 minutes
- Complete the collection data information (who, what, where, when, weather, etc)
- Identify and count all birds spotted on the survey sheet
- After 15 minutes of recording your results, tally up the totals for each bird type

Please remember to encourage the children to all participate (writing data, holding and using the equipment, and identifying their birds), to minimise habitat disturbance, and respect all creatures found.

# Leaf/Bark ground cover Survey

## Aim

Identify and count invertebrates observed from ground (leaves, bark, mulch)

## Supplies required

Pencil or marker pen

Survey data sheet

White tray

Soil sieve

Trowel or scoop

NZ Invertebrate ID guide sheet (pictures)

Invertebrate ID feature sheet (descriptions)

*Downloadable sheets from inside the DOC resource:*

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/getting-involved/students-and-teachers/experiencing-invertebrates-in-your-green-space.pdf>

## Optional

Magnifying glass

Tweezers

Sample containers

## Protocol

- Find a spot away from others and ideally stay in the same area for 15 minutes
- Complete the collection data information (who, what, where, when, weather, etc)
- Place two or three scoops of ground litter debris of leaves and bark (NOT soil or mulch) into the sieve
- Gently shake the sieve over the white tray until all small items fall through
- Slowly look through sieved items on tray and record all invertebrates you find
- Collect any special/interesting ones in to the sample containers for later ID
- Return all ground litter debris and sieved items back to where you found them
- After 15 minutes of recording your results, tally up the totals for each invertebrate type

Please remember to encourage the children to all participate (writing data, holding and using the equipment, and identifying their invertebrates), to minimise habitat disturbance, and respect all invertebrates found.

# Bush Shaking Survey

## Aim

Identify and count invertebrates observed from bushes

## Supplies required

Pencil or marker pen

Survey data sheet

White tray

NZ Invertebrate ID guide sheet (pictures)

Invertebrate ID feature sheet (descriptions)

*Downloadable sheets from inside the DOC resource:*

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/getting-involved/students-and-teachers/experiencing-invertebrates-in-your-green-space.pdf>

## Optional

Magnifying glass

Tweezers

Sample containers

## Protocol

- Find a spot away from others and ideally stay in the same area for 15 minutes
- Complete the collection data information (who, what, where, when, weather, etc)
- Place your white tray under a small bush or tree branch
- Gently shake the bush or tree branch over the tray, causing invertebrates to fall out
- Slowly look through fallen items on tray and record all invertebrates you find
- Collect any special/interesting ones into the sample containers for later ID
- Return items back to where you found them (tip tray over bush or underneath tree)
- After 15 minutes of recording your results, tally up the totals for each invertebrate type

Please remember to encourage the children to all participate (writing data, holding and using the equipment, and identifying their invertebrates), to minimise habitat disturbance, and respect all invertebrates found.

# Topsoil Survey

## Aim

Identify and count invertebrates observed from soil

## Supplies required

Pencil or marker pen

Survey data sheet

White tray

Soil sieve

Trowel or scoop

NZ Invertebrate ID guide sheet (pictures)

Invertebrate ID feature sheet (descriptions)

*Downloadable sheets from inside the DOC resource:*

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/getting-involved/students-and-teachers/experiencing-invertebrates-in-your-green-space.pdf>

## Optional

Magnifying glass

Tweezers

Sample containers

## Protocol

- Find a spot away from others and ideally stay in the same area for 15 minutes
- Complete the collection data information (who, what, where, when, weather, etc)
- Place one or two scoops of top 1-2 cms of soil and mulch (NOT leaves or bark) into the sieve
- Gently shake the sieve over the white tray until all small items fall through
- Slowly look through sieved items on tray and record all invertebrates you find
- Collect any special/interesting ones in to the sample containers for later ID
- Return all soil, mulch and sieved items back to where you found them
- After 15 minutes of recording your results, tally up the totals for each invertebrate type

Please remember to encourage the children to all participate (writing data, holding and using the equipment, and identifying their invertebrates), to minimise habitat disturbance, and respect all invertebrates found.

# Rubbish Survey

## Aim

Identify and count invertebrates observed from rubbish collected during a defined timeframe

## Supplies required

Pencil or marker pen

Survey sheet

White tray

Gloves

Rubbish bag

NZ Invertebrate ID guide sheet (pictures)

Invertebrate ID feature sheet (descriptions)

*Downloadable sheets from inside the DOC resource:*

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/getting-involved/students-and-teachers/experiencing-invertebrates-in-your-green-space.pdf>

## Optional

Magnifying glass

Tweezers

Sample containers

## Protocol

- Find an area away from others to search for 15 minutes
- Complete the collection data information (who, what, where, when, weather, etc)
- Using gloved hands or tweezers gently pick up rubbish and place on the white tray, being CAREFUL when handling glass and other sharp objects
- Gently shake/open the item over the white tray, slowly look through and record the type of rubbish and invertebrates you find
- Collect any special/interesting ones in to the sample containers for later ID
- Return invertebrates back to the area found and put rubbish in a bag for disposal later
- After 15 minutes of recording your results, tally up the totals for each invertebrate type

Please remember to encourage the children to all participate (writing data, holding and using the equipment, and identifying their invertebrates), to minimise habitat disturbance, and respect all invertebrates found.