

Stream Survey Activity Sheet

When you first look at a stream it seems to be just water and stones. If you look a little more carefully you can see that there are deeper and shallower places, pools and tiny rapids, and things crawling or swimming about in between and underneath the stones.

-To discover more - you can take a few measurements, then catch and identify some mini-beasts. You will need:- a ruler, a tape measure, a net, a tray and an identification chart.

1. First, find a place on the stream which is fairly wide and has different things on the stream bed - stones, sand, mud, rocks, etc.

2. Use the tape to measure carefully from one bank to the other. Write down the total width =

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 m.

3. You are going to measure the depth of the water at regular places across the stream - so you can make an accurate drawing. Choose a small gap between your depth readings - 10 or 20 centimeters, begin at 0 m. (Measure the height of stones sticking out and put an 'h' by the reading) Write down what is on the bed of the stream as you go across - sand, mud, pebbles, rocks or plants. Take it in turns to do the different jobs.

(Use this chart to keep your recordings tidy.)

Distance	
Depth	
Bed	

4. You can work out the speed of the water by using a float, a stick or an orange. Put it in the main flow and time it for 10 seconds. Measure the distance it travelled. Do this ten times from the same place and you can get an average distance.

Test	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Distance										

(You can work it out back at the Centre.)

5. Now you can catch some mini-beasts. Choose two or three places across your bit of stream which are different - slow or fast flow, sand or rocks. At each place put the net firmly on to the bottom and stir up the bed just upstream - so any creatures are washed into the net (don't get too much sand or mud in).

Identify the mini-beasts by looking at the chart or a field guide book and count how many of each kind you get at the different places.

	Site 1	Animal	No.	Animal	No.	Animal	No.
Distance Across = Stream							
Bed = Type							

	Site 2	Animal	No.	Animal	No.	Animal	No.
Distance Across = Stream							
Bed = Type							

	Site 3	Animal	No.	Animal	No.	Animal	No.
Distance Across = Stream							
Bed = Type							

(Remember to measure where each site is, so you can compare these results with your depth readings back at the Centre.)