

Backyard Biology Data Collection Protocol

1. Fill the yellow bowl with 1 cup of water. Then add 2 teaspoons of salt. Stir the water until the salt is dissolved. Add 2–3 drops of dish detergent to the salt solution and gently stir the solution.
2. Place the bowl outside of your home after school near at least a few plants. Place the bowl in a spot in which it is unlikely to be disturbed for the next day.

Any area with even a few plants, even weeds, will work. Make sure that pets cannot get to the bowl. If your spot is windy, add a few rocks inside the bowl to keep the bowl in place.
3. After waiting at least 24 hours, return to the bowl and collect the contents.
4. Collect the plants from $\frac{1}{4}$ of a circle that you create around the bowl. The circle should have a radius of 1 meter (m). Use the following steps.
 - a. Either tie one end of the string to a stake or nail or have another person hold it. This end of the string should be placed next to the bowl. You will hold the other end.
 - b. Pull the string tight. Mark the spot 1 m away from the center of the bowl with a rock or a stick.
 - c. Then walk $\frac{1}{4}$ of a circle. Mark this spot, too.
 - d. If you have permission, cut all the plants in the $\frac{1}{4}$ of a circle you marked. Cut the plants right where they go into the ground.
 - e. Put all the cut plants in a plastic bag.
5. Pour the water, salt, and arthropods from the bowl into a plastic container and screw on the lid. If using a plastic or resealable bag, consider using 2 bags in the event of a leak. Bring the container and the bag of plants to school the next day.