

## Preparing for A Level Biology – Induction Activity

This activity is designed to bridge the gap between GCSE Biology and A Level Biology. You must bring it to your first A Level Biology lesson where it will be submitted for marking.

### **Biological Field Studies**

Biology is the study of life. The greatest thing about studying biology is coming to understand why the living things around us look and behave the way they do. Part of developing this understanding is through fieldwork, but this doesn't mean a long and meticulously planned expedition; fieldwork can be done in your own garden, local park or even the town centre!

Your task is to investigate the flora and fauna of a location chosen by you. This task can take from three hours, to three days. Spend some time in your chosen location observing the living things around you – what species can you identify? Record all of them, but choose one to focus on.

If your chosen species is a plant, investigate if its distribution changes as you walk a transect through your study area. Suggestions: dandelions, daisies, Japanese knotweed.

If your chosen species is an animal, spend time observing its behaviours. What is it doing? Why? Suggestions: snails, woodlice, blackbirds.

You write a report on your investigation, outlining what you did, your observations/data, and your conclusions. You will need to do some research on your chosen species to support your investigation. Aim for no more than one side of A4.

Use the following sub-headings to structure your report:

- Aims (what are you investigating and why?)
- Method (what are you doing to investigate this?)
- Results (what data have you collected/what have you seen? Use tables and/or graphs if appropriate)
- Conclusion (suggest/explain what do your results show)

### ***Useful resources***

Investigating diversity of species: <https://www.biology-fieldwork.org/a-level/diversity/#primary-nav>

Fieldwork techniques: <https://www.biology-fieldwork.org/a-level/fieldwork-techniques/#primary-nav>

Identifying birds: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/identify-a-bird/>

Identifying invertebrates: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/take-part/identify-nature/common-insect-and-other-invertebrate-groups.html>

Open access scientific articles on animal behaviour: <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/animal-behaviour/open-access-articles>