STREAM SURVEY

Working in teams, students apply multiple skills to examine stream ecology in detail.

THEMES
Stream Ecology
Biodiversity
Water Quality

GRADES
4 - 6

TIME
Up to 60 minutes

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Apply research methodology in the natural environment.
- Understand how plants and animals live together in a water-dependent ecosystem and what they indicate about its health.
- Work as a team to complete a task.
- Cultivate an interest in learning more.

WHAT TO DO

1) Contact us to arrange for this activity at accessible sites in Fauntleroy Park or the lower creek. To avoid damaging habitat, sites will be scattered but in the same general vicinity; be prepared for each team to work independently.

2) Choose which survey components you want to use and copy them from *www.fauntleroy.net/creek/streamsurveymaterials*:

- Site Observations - identifying the site and making basic observations
- Plant Identification - identifying and recording plants
- Animal Identification - identifying and recording aquatic animals (requires closest supervision)
- Conclusions - describing findings in writing.

3) Collect the following materials and equipment for each team:

Survey pages	Clipboard	Thermometer
Pencil	Ruler	Magnifying glass

OPTIONS

- Work through the components during two or more field trips.
- Compare findings site to site and/or year to year.
- To eliminate the need for clipboards, photocopy survey pages on cover-weight paper.
- Follow up with a more-scientific sampling of macroinvertebrates using our Surber net and "kid-friendly" protocol; contact us for details.
- Add testing for dissolved oxygen using our test kit.
- Add garbage pick-up to and from study sites.

SUPPORT FOR YOUR FIELD TRIP

- On-site leadership or assistance.
- Thermometers and magnifying glasses.
- Driving directions to the watershed at *www.fauntleroy.net/creek/creekdirectio*ns.
- A diagram of the lower creek at *www.fauntleroy.net/creek/lowercreekdiagram*.
- A map of Fauntleroy Park at *www.fauntleroy.net/fauntleroypark/trailma*p.

SPECIAL MENTION

Ordinary Seattle rain should not require postponing this activity. In the event of a major rainstorm on your day, call early in the morning to strategize what to do.

Remind students and adults to wear sturdy shoes and dress "warm and washable."

Forming teams and deciding who will do what in advance will save you valuable time streamside.

Plants are easiest to identify in the spring and fall; macroinvertebrates are largest in the fall.