



Time Needed

3–4 class periods

Materials

- Nature inventory sheet
- Clipboard
- Pencil
- Stopwatch or timer
- Poster paper
- Markers
- Research materials (internet, books from the library, etc.)

In this FACTivity, you will explore natural areas near your school or home. You will come up with a plan to help support natural vegetation and wildlife in the area.



Adobe Stock photo.

Methods

You are going to sit outside, in one place, for 10 minutes. Your job is to be a nature observer. You should be as quiet as possible during your 10-minute observation so you can see and hear as much as possible. Do a general observation of everything for 8 minutes, then a specific observation of one plant or animal for 2 minutes. You will write down things you observe, hear, and smell on your nature inventory sheet.

After 10 minutes, your teacher will lead a class discussion on what kinds of things were observed during the 10 minutes.

Next, you will research your native habitat. Find out what kinds of animals typically live in your area. What kind of plants are common? Do any endangered or threatened species live in your area?

Your teacher will divide you into pairs or small groups. Your task will be to create a plan with at least three things that people can do to help support the natural vegetation and wildlife in your area. For example, is there a plant that could be planted to help? What kind of plant is it? How frequently would it need to be planted?

Create a poster with the three things people can do and hang these posters in your school.

Name _____

NATURE INVENTORY SHEET

Pick a place to sit quietly for 8 minutes. Write down the following information.

What do you see?	What do you hear?	What do you smell?

Pick one of the animals or plants that you see and observe it closely for 2 minutes. Write down your observations about it and sketch it. For example, if you are observing a bird for 2 minutes, draw it, then write down what it looks like, what sounds it makes, what movements it does, etc.

Sketch of my plant or animal

Observations about my plant or animal