

## Hula Hoop Plant Inventory

Children can learn observation and data collection techniques with this basic plant inventory that can be done in your backyard or in any “green space.”



### Materials

Hula hoop

Pencil and notebook

Digital camera optional

Magnifying glass optional

Ruler optional

Place a large hula hoop on the ground where plants are present.

Look for plants that are similar within the circle. Count and record the number of different *types* of plants in your sample. It is not necessary to identify them by name.

Count and write down how many different types of plants are present in the circle.

You can use a magnifying glass and ruler to help with the description (for example: ground cover 3 inches tall with red flowers). Draw (or photograph) the most numerous plant in your sample. Draw the least numerous plant in your sample. Draw the largest plant in your sample. Draw the smallest plant in our sample.

Look for areas in your yard that will have more or less diversity and repeat and compare. Are there more or fewer plants in sunny or shady spots? In a garden or a lawn?

For fun, toss the hula hoop and wherever it lands, do your survey there!

