Neighborhood Dog Poop Survey

Objective:

- Students will learn to conduct surveys using the scientific method
- Students will collect and analyze a real data set
- Allow kids to educate the public about the negative effects of dog feces

Materials:

- Print out of data sheet
- Clipboard or another hard surface to write on
- Pencils with erasers
- If desired, bring skeins of yarn that students can lay out on the ground to mark their plot boundaries.

Survey site suggestions:

- Make sure the area you pick to survey is public land, it's easily accessible, and it's somewhere you can go year after year.

Before you go out:

- Take one normal walking step and have a partner measure the distance between the heel of your back foot and the toe of your front foot. You will use this measurement to measure out the size of the study plot and to determine how far the dog bag dispenser is from each dog poop specimen.
- Review the differences between other animals' scat and dog scat. This will help you minimize error when identifying dog scat
- Ideally, each group will have a survey plot that is at least 10 feet by 20 feet.

Can you identify other types of scat (aka poop)?

Pictures of local scat:

Raccoon scat

Coyote scat

Rabbit scat

Dog Poop Survey

Instructions:

You are on the lookout for dog poop. This is some stinky business! Ah, the things we do for science. Here are the steps you'll need to succeed:

1. Break into small groups.
2. Designate one group member as a recorder. They will fill out all of the data your group finds.
3. Another group member will be the walker who will count their steps to measure out your plot. Measure their stride: If your group member's normal step is 1.5 feet long, it will take 4 steps to make the 10-foot side of your plot and 8 steps to make the 20-foot side of your plot.
4. Another group member will follow after them, laying down yarn for each side of the plot.
5. After this, it's time to stand next to your group members, side by side, at one end of the plot. Walk from one end of the plot to the other, "combing" through it, and paying attention to your section of the "comb".
6. To the best of your ability. Remember, you're doing the work that professional scientist would do. Be observant and careful as you walk around, slowly, looking for scat.
7. Remember what you've learned about other animals' scat to make sure that the scat you find is from dogs and no other creatures.

Name/Group:

Date: **Start/ End Time:**

Scats found. How far were they from the dispenser?	Were they Fresh (F) or old (O)?
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.
7.	7.
8.	8.
9.	9.
10.	10.
11.	11.
12.	12.

Location name and description

Is there a dog bag dispenser? (circle one)

Yes	**No**

Where do you find most of the poop? (ex. middle of the trail or on the grass next to the playground)

Extra Notes:

Lead "walker's" step measurement:

_____Ft

How big is your plot? :

_____ft by _____ft