QUADRAT ACTIVITY & BIODIVERSITY

Today we will apply methods that scientists use to monitor the biodiversity of an area to our own schoolyard. We will work to make observations and count plant & animal species using quadrats (small sections to find data to estimate a larger area).

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Create a comparison question related to this investigation. For example: Are there more daisies in mown or unmown grass?

2. What did you discover? How many different species of plants/animals did you identify?

3. Which plant had the highest had the highest **population density (number of organisms per quadrant**)?

The lowest?

4. What is the distribution of plants across the landscape? Did you notice clumps of a single species or were they mostly evenly distributed (heterogeneous vs. homogenous)?

5. What does the term Biodiversity mean? Why is biodiversity important?

6. What could change the types of species living in each area?

7. What would happen if one of the species disappeared?

8. What changes would humans need to make to increase the biodiversity here?