

Base Maps

Grade: Fifth



Location(s):

Any outdoor area. This activity works well in fall and spring for data comparisons.

Activity Length:

50 minutes

Materials:

- Garbage bag (encourage students to leave site better than they found it.)
- Base map of site (simple map of site, copy this onto each of the clear projector overlay sheets)
- Overlay maps on clear projector sheets labeled with each subject (4 or more, see topics below)
- Wet erase markers for students to use on their overlay maps (each group should use a different color)
- Boundary markers
- Field guides
- Hand lenses
- Volunteers to help with activity

Preparation:

- Prior to the field trip, prepare base map of site and overlay maps with basic site features
- Determine field trip boundaries and mark/flag them. Be sure to mark any hazards.

Activity:

- Discuss boundaries and warn students of possible hazards
- Divide students into 4 or more groups.
 - Wildlife signs
 - Landforms / Geology / substrate
 - Shrubs, Trees, and Woody Debris
 - Water / moist areas
- Assign an overlay topic to each group.
- Each group should draw symbols to represent their subjects on their overlay map. For example, a plant group would draw symbols to represent shrubs, trees, and other plants in the area on their overlay map.
- Return to the classroom.
 - So what do we have here?
 - Can students identify any relationships between locations of organisms and environmental factors?
 - Discuss the assemblage of species & characteristics in the environment as you lay the overlays one on top of the next.
 - Why do these relationships exist?

Compiled by FRJUSD teachers and Spring Rivers Foundation.

