

Keep this sheet.  
Collect them all!



## Explore your world with this Science-to-Go backpack



### Books in this backpack

- **Citizen Scientists: Be a Part of Scientific Discovery from Your Own Backyard**  
by Loree Griffin Burns
- **The Kid's Guide to Exploring Nature**  
by Marilyn Smith
- **Look Up! Bird-watching in Your Own Backyard**  
by Annette LeBlanc Cate
- **Rachel Carson and Her Book That Changed the World**  
by Laurie Lawlor
- **Wild Tracks! A Guide to Nature's Footprints**  
by Jim Arnosky

### Idea!

Plant herbs. You don't need a garden to grow something—just room for a pot on a windowsill. Seed packets are available at any grocery store.

More books  
at your  
library

Birds A to Z. Chris Early. J598  
Kids' Container Gardening. Cindy Krezel. J635.986  
The Nature Connection. Clare Walker Leslie. J508  
One Small Place in a Tree. Barbara Brenner. E577.3  
Ultimate Bugopedia. Darlyne Marawski and Nancy Honovich. J595.703

Local Connection

Visit the Tacoma Nature Center, a 71-acre wetland reserve in the middle of the city.

Biologists engage fieldwork to learn more about something in nature. Fieldwork is practical and done outdoors—you might just think of it as close observation. In this activity you'll use a common tool called a “quadrat” to look closely at your lawn.

## What you need:

- Outdoor lawn area (backyard or park)
- Ruler or tape measure (optional)
- Notebook and pencil
- Wire coat hanger

## Try this:

1. Create your quadrat out of a wire coat hanger: Pull the coat hanger apart to make a rough square. It doesn't need to be perfect.
2. Outside, stand and look at your lawn. Draw a quick sketch of the area and make a note of how many different plants you see. Does it appear to be all grass?
3. Put your quadrat flat on the lawn. Look closely inside the quadrat. How many different plants do you see now? Is the quadrat mostly grass—or is it mostly other plants?
4. Draw a sketch of each plant inside your quadrat. How many of each plant do you count? Take notes.
5. When you're done looking, move your quadrat to a different part of the lawn. Try an edge area. Look closely again. Do you see all the same plants as before? Draw any new ones and take a count of each plant.
6. Continue sampling around the yard for as long as you like. You may be surprised by the many plants you find!

## Going Further

Identify the plants you find using a field guide from the library, or the USDA Plants Database: [plants.usda.gov](http://plants.usda.gov).