



Team Protocol: Big Group

The Big Group protocol challenges classrooms of 10-20+ students to work together to complete a field investigation and record their observations on just 1 *Vital Signs* datasheet. This 1 datasheet may include species observations from all 20+ students. Students begin working all together to find and collect species, and finish working individually or in pairs to record species. If your goal is to look for a lot of different species in a larger area, this team protocol is for you!

Note: Print 1 complete *Vital Signs* datasheet for the class. Print multiple copies of the Species Tab (eg. If you are looking for 13 different species, print 13 lucky Species Tabs).

IN THE CLASSROOM

1. **Walk through the *Vital Signs* sampling method and datasheet** as a whole class What types of data will we collect? How?
2. **Explain** that you will all spend time collecting species to start. Species will be placed in one central location.
3. **Explain** that you will then break up into pairs or work as individuals to look for 1 species each in the central location. Each individual or pair will fill out 1 Species Tab. One pair or individual will take responsibility for filling out the Place Tab. If you are doing a *Species & Habitat Survey* one pair or individual will take responsibility for filling out the Habitat Tab.

IN THE FIELD

1. **Students collect species** according to their sampling method, and bring them to one central location.
2. **Individuals or pairs look for a species** in the central location. Each completes a Species Tab for the species they looked for.
3. **One pair completes the Place Tab.**
4. **One pair completes the Habitat Tab** (if applicable).
5. **Teams return equipment** they were responsible for.
6. **Reflect** on successes, challenges of the big group and individual/pair components.