

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Activity: Using Pit Fall Traps to Collect Terrestrial Invertebrates and Possible Urban Forest Invasive Species**

### **Objectives:**

- 1) To allow students to collect terrestrial invertebrates using a home made pit fall-style trap.
- 2) To understand there are many more invertebrates than we thought.
- 3) To reinforce the concept of invasive species while performing a field study to collect specimens.
- 4) To classify invertebrates.

### **Back Ground Information:**

A terrestrial invertebrate is defined as such because it is found on land and it doesn't have a backbone. Common examples of terrestrial invertebrates are insects, arachnids (spiders, scorpions, ticks & mites), gastropods (snails), centipedes, millipedes, isopods (pill and sow bugs), worms, etc. Most of these organisms are commonly found in Wisconsin, and some may even be considered invasive. Remember an invasive species must meet two criteria: it's nonnative to the ecosystem under consideration and its introduction is likely to cause economic harm, environment harm or harm to human health.

### **Materials:**

Scissors	plastic cups
Glue guns	tape
Paper or plastic plates	water
Drop of soap per trap	antifreeze (optional)
Small flower shovel	

### **Procedure:**

- 1) Students will construct pit fall traps in class using materials provided. (They can redesign them at home if needed)
- 2) Each group, consisting of two or three students will place three pit fall traps at locations of their choice in Collip Worden Park. Make sure to label traps, including names, date, and don't tamper signs.
- 3) Students will return the sampling site the next day during class to remove traps and collect organisms.
- 4) In class, students will classify organisms into broad categories using data table.
- 5) Students will try to determine if any invertebrates collected are considered to be invasive.

**Make a prediction:** What do you think you will find and what organisms will be the most common?

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Collection Sites:	A	B	C
Ants	_____	_____	_____
Spiders	_____	_____	_____
Worms	_____	_____	_____
Centipedes	_____	_____	_____
Beetles	_____	_____	_____
Isopods (pill bugs)	_____	_____	_____
Millipedes	_____	_____	_____
Snails	_____	_____	_____
Slugs	_____	_____	_____
Earwigs	_____	_____	_____
Others (Please list)	_____	_____	_____
Total:	_____	_____	_____

**Activity Questions:**

- 1) Which type of invertebrate was most numerous or common at all collection Sites?  
Why do you think so?
- 2) If you had only collected during the day, how might your results differ?
- 3) Were there any surprises you encountered in this activity?
- 4) Which of the organisms you collected would be considered an invasive species?
- 5) If you were going to do this activity again, what might you change about it?

