

Name _____

Date _____

Backyard Journal Science Project Guidelines

Choose a small square in your backyard where you can make observations over the next month. Measure the area to make sure it is approximately one square yard. You will keep a journal of your observations. Plan to make at least three journal entries a week. When you visit your square, remember to be quiet and patient. Good scientists watch closely over time to gather accurate and complete information. You should plan to spend between 10 – 15 minutes at each visit. Record the following information in your journal during your observations:

Date:

Start time:

End time:

Temperature: (If you do not have an outdoor thermometer, you can get the approximate temperature from the news, weather channel, or look it up on the internet for your local area.)

Weather: Describe what the weather is like during or right before your observation.

Describe what you see in the habitat: You may also describe things that are happening near the square. For example a bird may fly overhead. Your descriptions should be in complete sentences. Record any changes you notice over time. Think about the methods scientists use when they make observations.

You may draw pictures, take photographs, or collect small items to enhance your backyard journal. From time to time, bring your journal to school to share what you have recorded.

Additional Suggested Activities: Place an open can or rain gauge and measure the rainfall amounts. Record this information in your journal. Put out cracker crumbs or bread in your square. Sprinkle bird seed in your square. Take a compass and describe what direction insects or animals are traveling. Look up things you find in a field guide. We will have a backyard field guide in our classroom.

Project Evaluation:

Possible Points

Organization and Neatness	10 pts.
Date and Time	10 pts.
Weather and Temperature	10 pts.
Number of Entries	30 pts.
Quality of Descriptions	30 pts.
Scientific Methods Evident	10 pts.

Total Points 100

Your journal should have at least 10 entries.

Points will be taken off for journals that are turned in past the due date.

The final journal is due on _____.