

Woody Material Data Collection

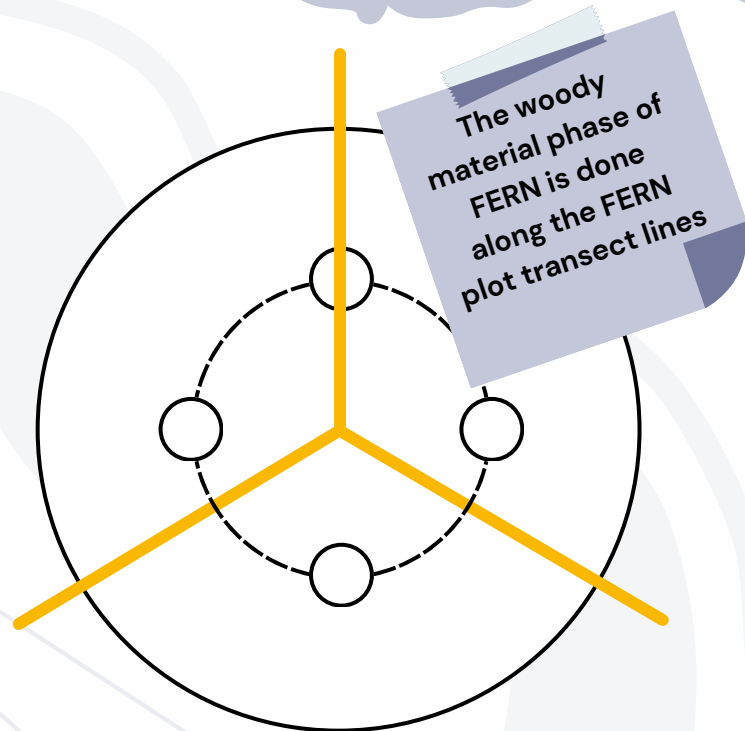
Take a few minutes to walk around your FERN plot and record your thoughts.

Work with your classmates to find the boundaries of the 1/10 acre plot and the embedded 1/50 acre and 1/1000 acre plots. Find and walk your transect lines. Make a note of the date, the weather, and any other information you think might impact how you move through the activity today.



What do you notice about the forest around you?

What do you wonder?



The Woody Material activity guides us through studying trees in the forest that have died.

How can you tell when a tree is dead?

What might be different about the leaves, branches, or trunk of a living tree vs. a dead tree?

When trees in a forest die, their role in the larger forest system changes. Living trees capture sunlight and use it to create sugar to feed themselves and the critters who eat their leaves, fruit, and seeds. What other roles do living trees have?

What roles do dead trees have?

Woody Material Data Collection

Student names:

Plot name:

Weather conditions:

Date:

Plot coordinates:

Latitude

Longitude

Transect (0, 120, or 240)	Diameter (in.)	Decay Class (1-5)	Species (if possible; or hardwood/softwood)

Decay Class	Structure	Bark	Twigs & Branches
1	Sound	Intact	Fine twigs present
2	Outer sapwood soft	Mostly intact	Large twigs present
3	Heartwood mostly sound	Falling off or absent	Branches present
4	Heartwood rotten	Detached or absent	Branch stubs easily fall off
5	Completely rotten	Detached or absent	Mostly absent

Note: classifying decay classes is subjective and your log might not fit perfectly on this chart. Make the best estimate you can with your observations and the decay class options.

Snag Data Collection

Student names:
Plot name:

Date:

Plot coordinates:
Latitude
Longitude

Weather conditions:

Tree ID	Species (if possible; or hardwood/softwood)	Snag Status	DBH (inches)

Snag Status

If you completed the Overstory activity for this plot, you may have already collected some data on snags. Here, we collect additional data on each snag, looking specifically at the process of decay.

Complete Crown: the top of the trunk and branches appear completely in tact.

Damaged Crown: the top of the trunk and branches appear partially missing or otherwise damaged.

Missing Crown: the top of the trunk and branches appear to have fallen off the tree.

Downed: use this code if data was collected on a snag in a previous year, but that snag has down fallen to the ground and is now a log.