



Tick Identification Walk

Directions

This activity is intended for grades 3 - 8.

Take a walk around the school yard and investigate areas that may be a good habitat for ticks. If your school has a walking trail, walk along the path of the trail. Instructors can either place 8.5"x11" images of ticks in certain locations before the start of the activity or carry a folder with the images to pull out once students have identified areas where ticks might live.

Discussion

Discuss tick identification (emphasizing the actual size of a tick is much smaller than the pictures). Discuss how deer ticks prefer brushy, forested areas with leaf litter that are low to the ground because they are protected from weather and some of their favorite hosts live in those areas, such as mice, deer, and birds. Dog ticks are commonly found in tall grass and weeds, meadows and marshes.

The instructor can also talk about ways to reduce tick-favored habitats, such as keeping tall grass trimmed, removing piles of brush and leaves, and removing plants that attract deer. If the school has a walking trail, emphasize staying on the path of the trail and not walking through the woods or tall grass.

This activity can also be done indoors by talking through the activity instead of walking around the school yard.

Supplies

- 8.5" x 11" images of deer and dog ticks

Learning Objectives

- Knowledge of tick biology and ecology
- Demonstrate personal protection methods





