



NAME _____

DATE _____

TRAIL GROUP _____

CABIN _____

Choose an organism

Choose an organism that you want to learn more about. The list below includes plants and animals that you might see during your trip to Indiana Dunes National Park.

- Black Oak
- Sassafras
- Sugar Maple
- Black Cherry
- Yellow Birch
- White/Paper Birch
- Serviceberry
- Witch Hazel
- American Beech
- Jack Pine
- Cottonwood
- White Pine
- Red Maple
- Blueberry
- Cattail
- Marram Grass
- Little Bluestem
- Sensitive Fern
- May Apple
- Garlic Mustard
- Phragmites
- Autumn Olive
- Oriental Bittersweet
- Prickly Pear Cactus
- Poison Ivy
- Hop Tree
- Scouring Rush/Horsetail
- Lupine
- Skunk Cabbage
- Red Fox
- White-Tailed Deer
- Raccoon
- Fox Squirrel
- Indiana Bat
- Red Squirrel
- Gray Squirrel
- Beaver
- Muskrat
- Cottontail Rabbit
- White-Footed Deer Mouse
- Short-Tailed Shrew
- Coyote
- Northern Cardinal
- White-Breasted Nuthatch
- Red-Winged Blackbird
- Gray Catbird
- Ring-Billed Gull
- American Crow
- Northern Flicker
- Black-Capped Chickadee
- Red-Tailed Hawk
- Canada Goose
- Great Blue Heron
- Red-Headed Woodpecker
- Red-Bellied Woodpecker
- Coopers Hawk
- Six-Lined Racerunner
- Hognose Snake
- Garter Snake
- Fowler's Toad
- Green Frog
- Wood Frog
- Spring Peeper
- Red Backed Salamander
- Blue Spotted Salamander
- Monarch Butterfly

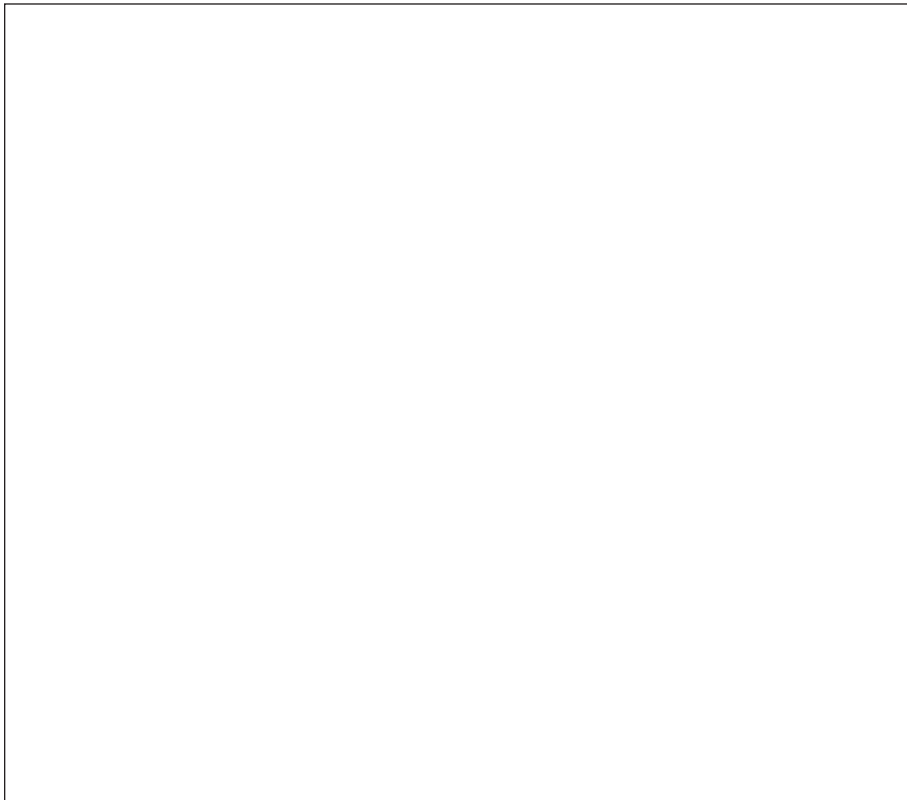
Think!

Find out everything you can about the organism that you chose before you come to Dunes Learning Center:

How big is it? _____

Is your organism an invasive species? _____

What does it look like? Draw a picture here:



What kind of places should you look for it? Guess the name of the ecosystem or ecosystems at the national park where you think you will find your organism.

- Eastern Deciduous Forest
- Wetland
- Oak Savanna Woodland
- Foredune
- Open Beach

If you don't find the organism itself, what evidence could you find that would prove it had been there?

Find out one especially interesting thing about your organism. You will be asked to share this information when you actually see the organism or find evidence that it has visited a place.

Walk Through Time

Over time, people have changed the way people look at and use land in the Indiana Dunes region. At each stop during our Walk Through Time, think about the connection that each group of people had with the land. What did they use the land for and how important was the environment to them? Use the spaces below to make notes or draw pictures.

<p>1700s Native Americans of the Potawatomi tribe inhabit this area.</p> <p><i>How did the Potawatomi people use the land?</i></p>	<p>early 1800s A fur trading post is established near the Little Calumet River.</p> <p><i>How did fur traders use the land?</i></p>	<p>late 1800s Immigrant families move to the area and operate farms.</p> <p><i>How did early farmers use the land?</i></p>	<p>early 1900s Industry moves in to the region while others try to preserve the lakeshore as a national park.</p> <p><i>How did industrialists use the land? How did early conservationists (like the Prairie Club) use the land?</i></p>	<p>1966 Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (now Park) becomes part of the National Park System.</p> <p><i>How is the land used today in the national park?</i></p>
---	--	---	--	---

Think!

How was the Little Calumet River used throughout time?

Which group or groups of people needed the land and its resources to survive?

Which group of people do you think valued the land the most and why?

How do you view and use the land today?

Hypotheses

What will the ecosystems of the National Park be like? Discuss these questions with your group. Make your own predictions and record them on your chart.

Which ecosystem will be the windiest?

Which ecosystem will have the highest air temperature?

Which ecosystem would have the longest lasting puddles?

Which place do you think will have the greatest **biodiversity** (different kinds of plants and animals living in it or visiting it)?

Ecosystems

Wetland

Eastern Deciduous Forest

Oak Savanna

Foredune

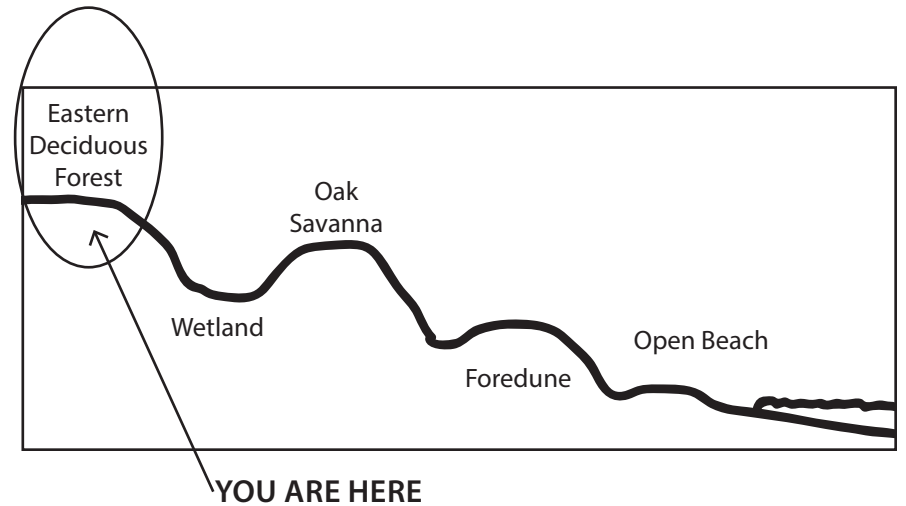
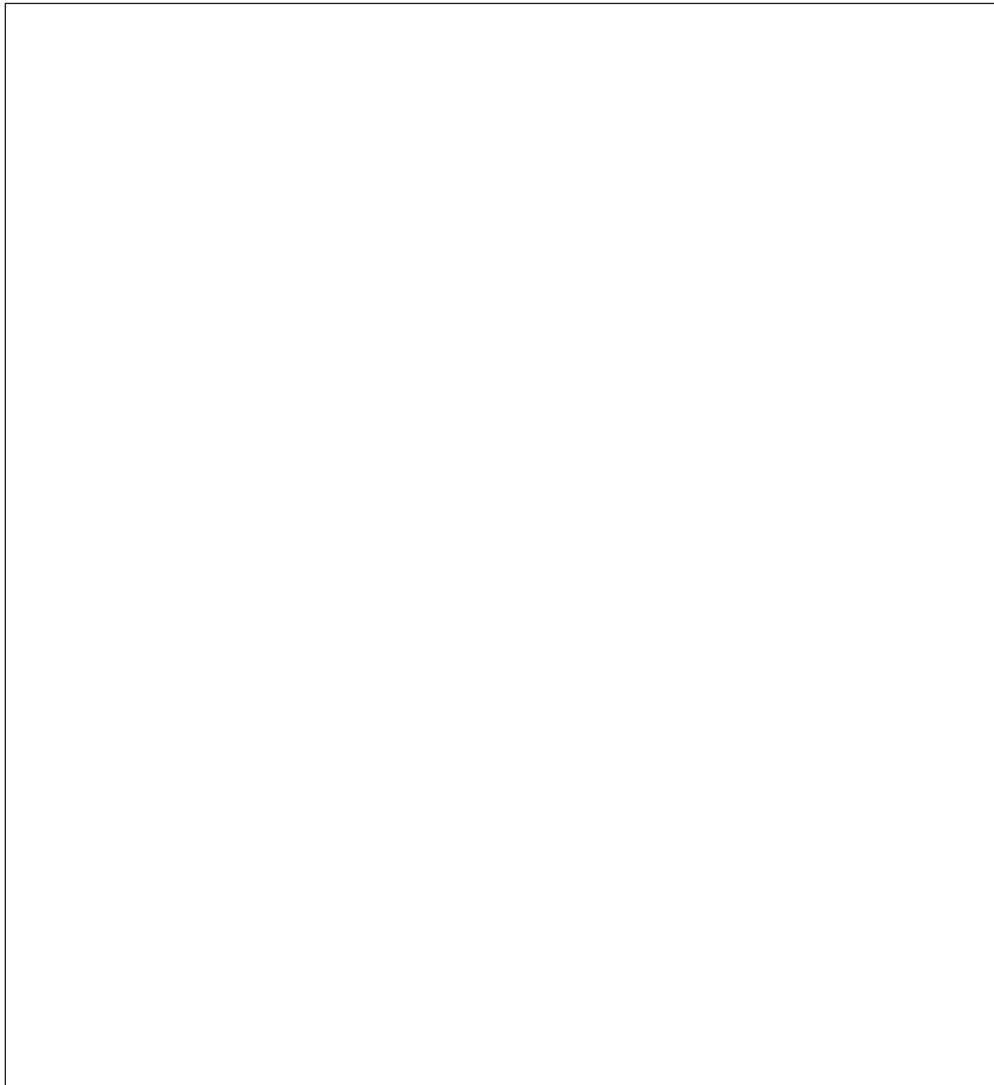
Open Beach

Ecosystem Investigations

Date:	Eastern Deciduous Forest	Wetland	Oak Savanna	Foredune	Open Beach
Time:					
Weather Conditions:					
Wind Speed:					
Temperature: Air 1 m Above Soil					
Soil Surface					
Underground					
Water (if available)					
How long does a puddle last?					
Soil Observations:					

Eastern Deciduous Forest

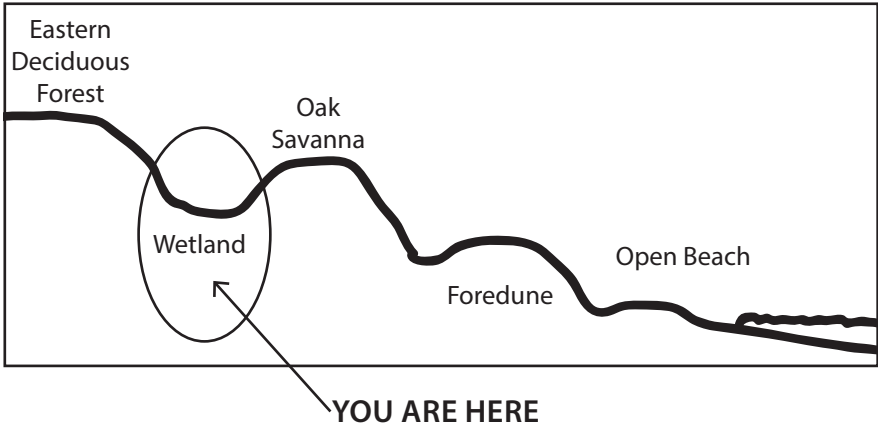
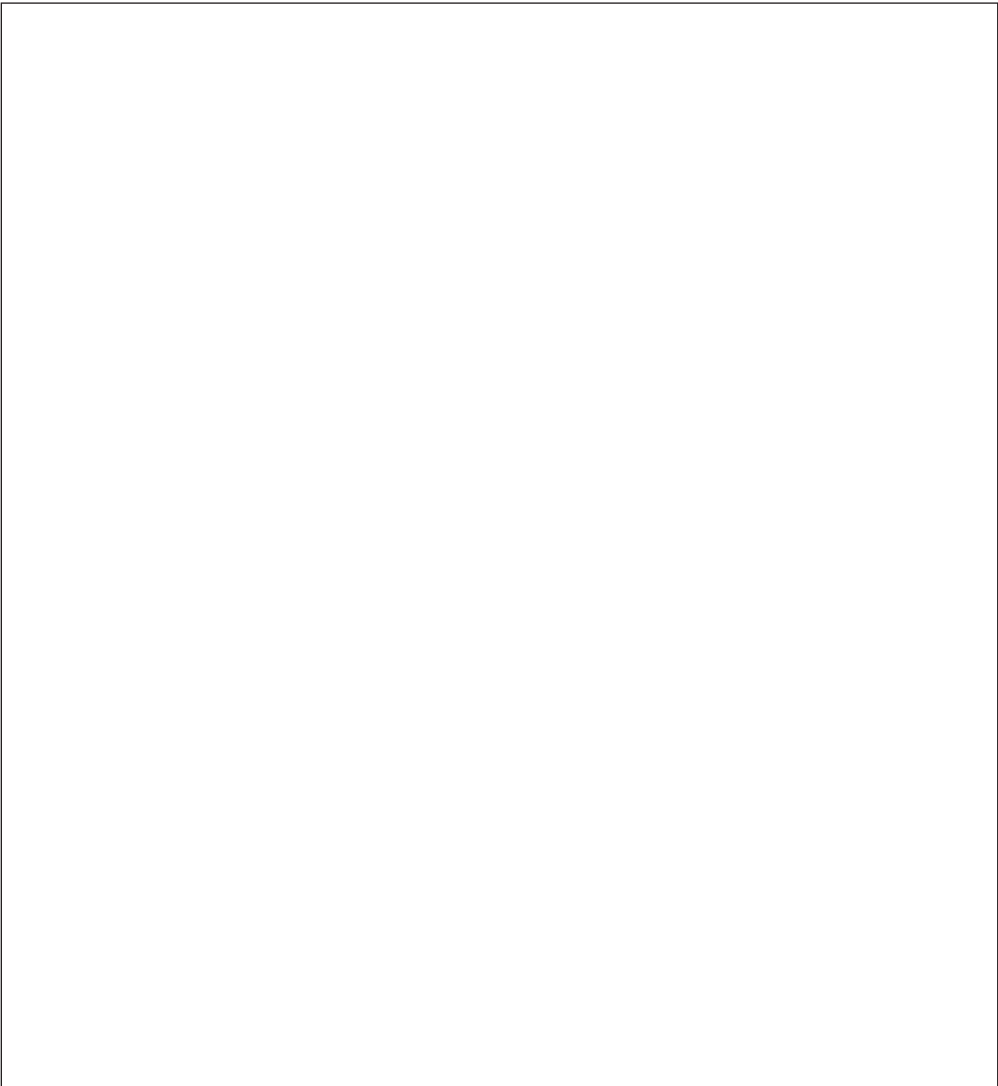
Sketch



Describe the plant and animal diversity that you see:

Wetland

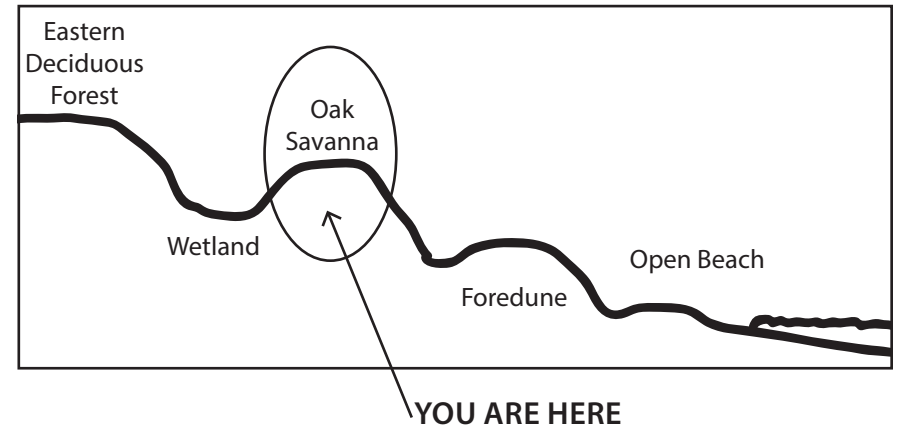
Sketch



Describe the plant and animal diversity that you see:

Oak Savanna

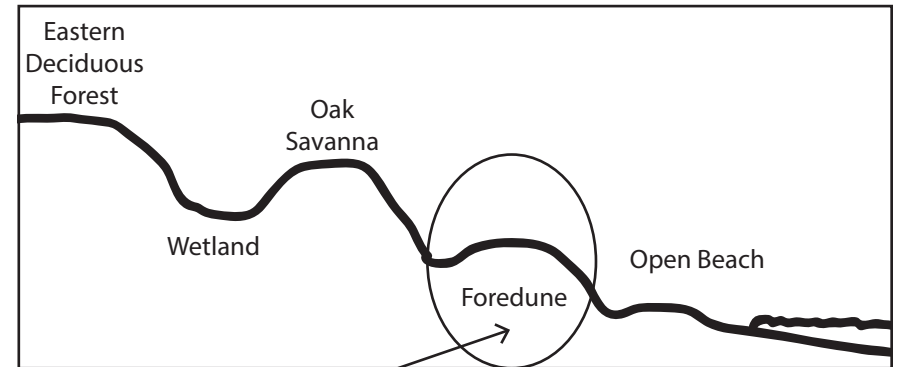
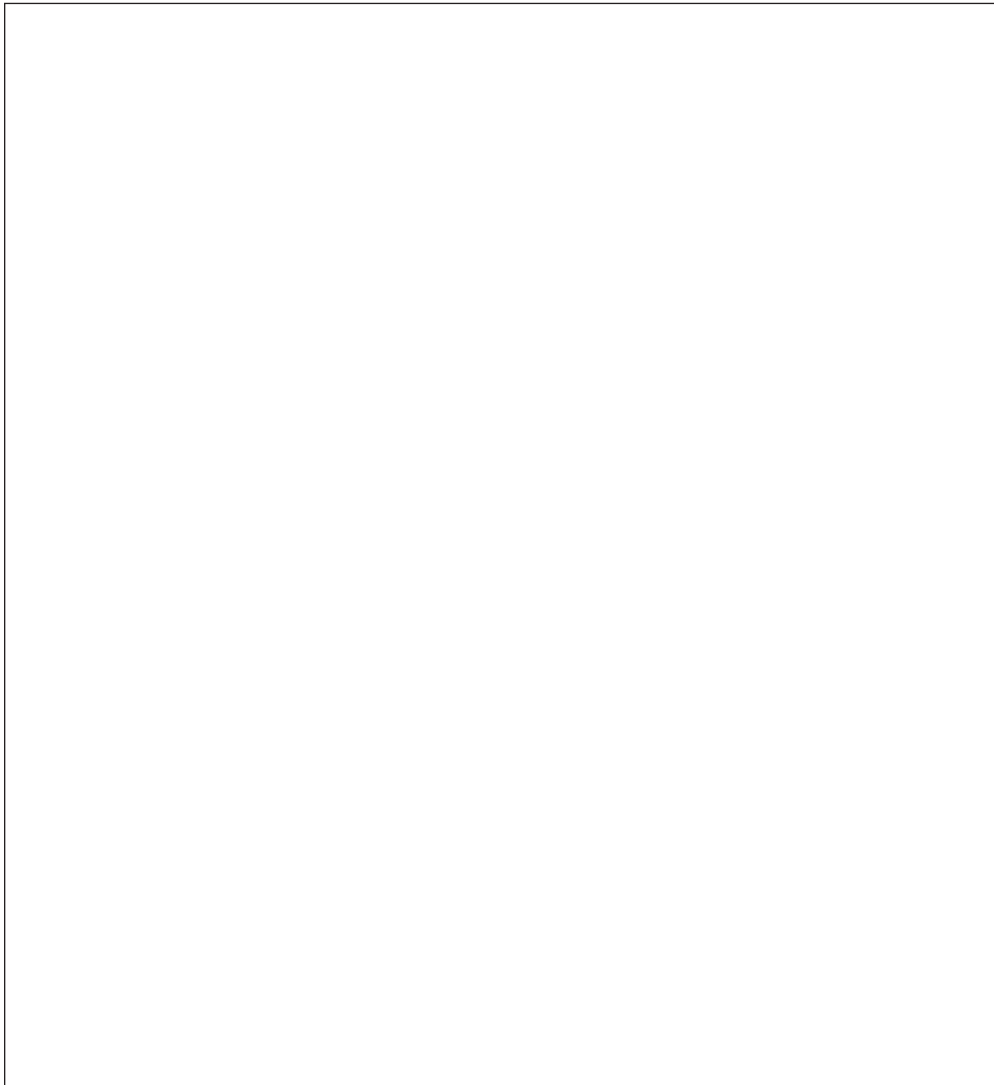
Sketch



Describe the plant and animal diversity that you see:

Foredune

Sketch

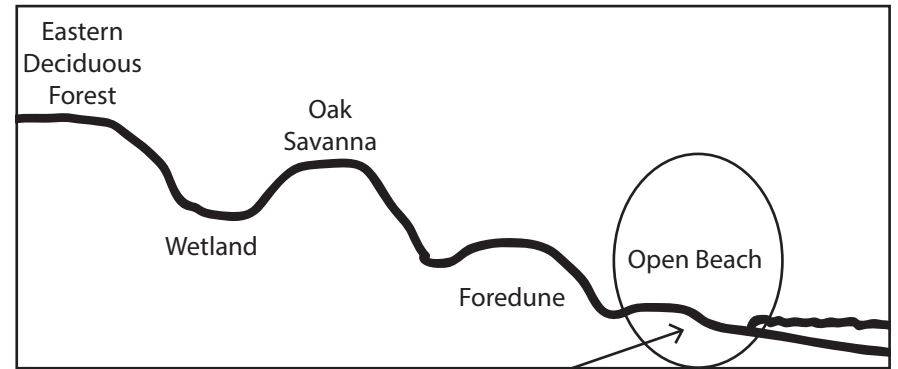
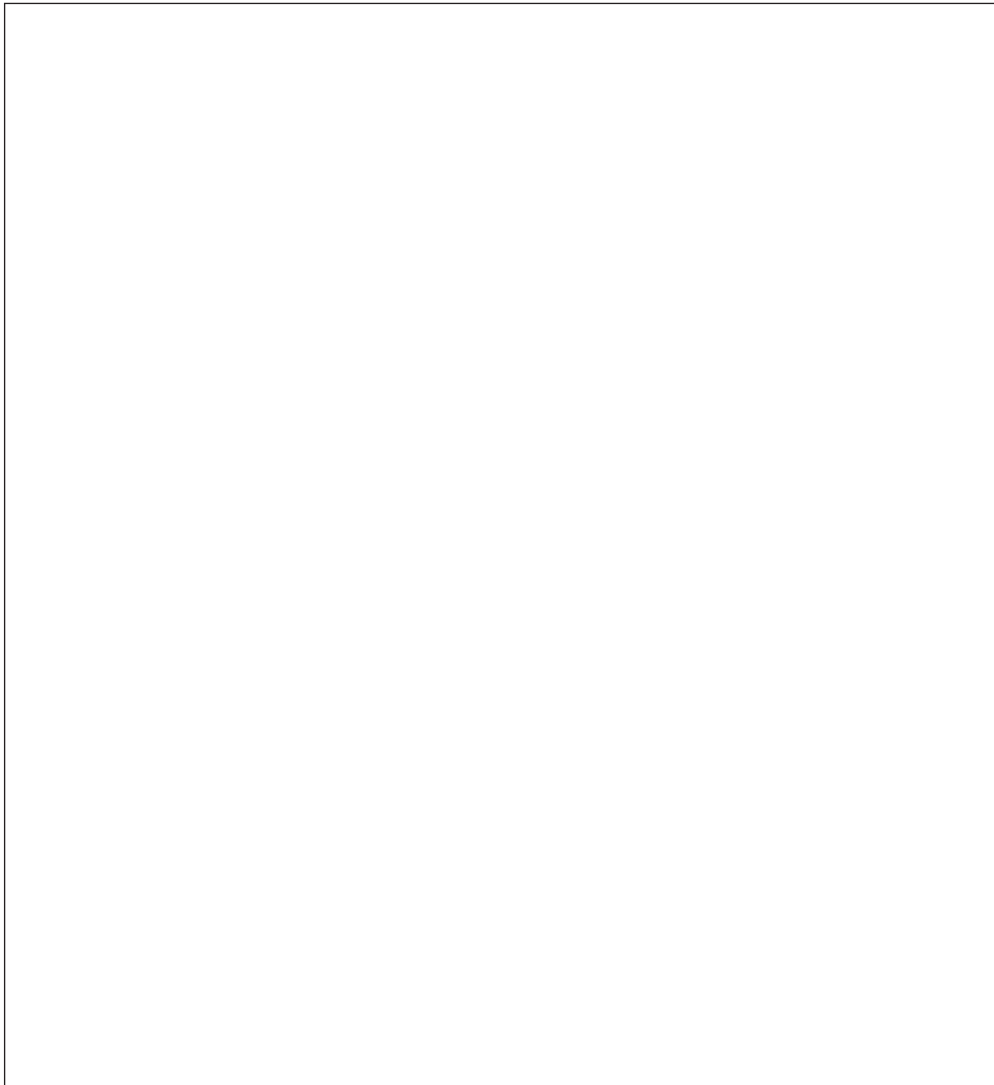


YOU ARE HERE

Describe the plant and animal diversity that you see:

Open Beach

Sketch



YOU ARE HERE

Describe the plant and animal diversity that you see:

Ecosystem Wrap-Up

As you look at your data, think like a scientist! Define the following terms so you can analyze and graph your ecosystem data.

Define mean.

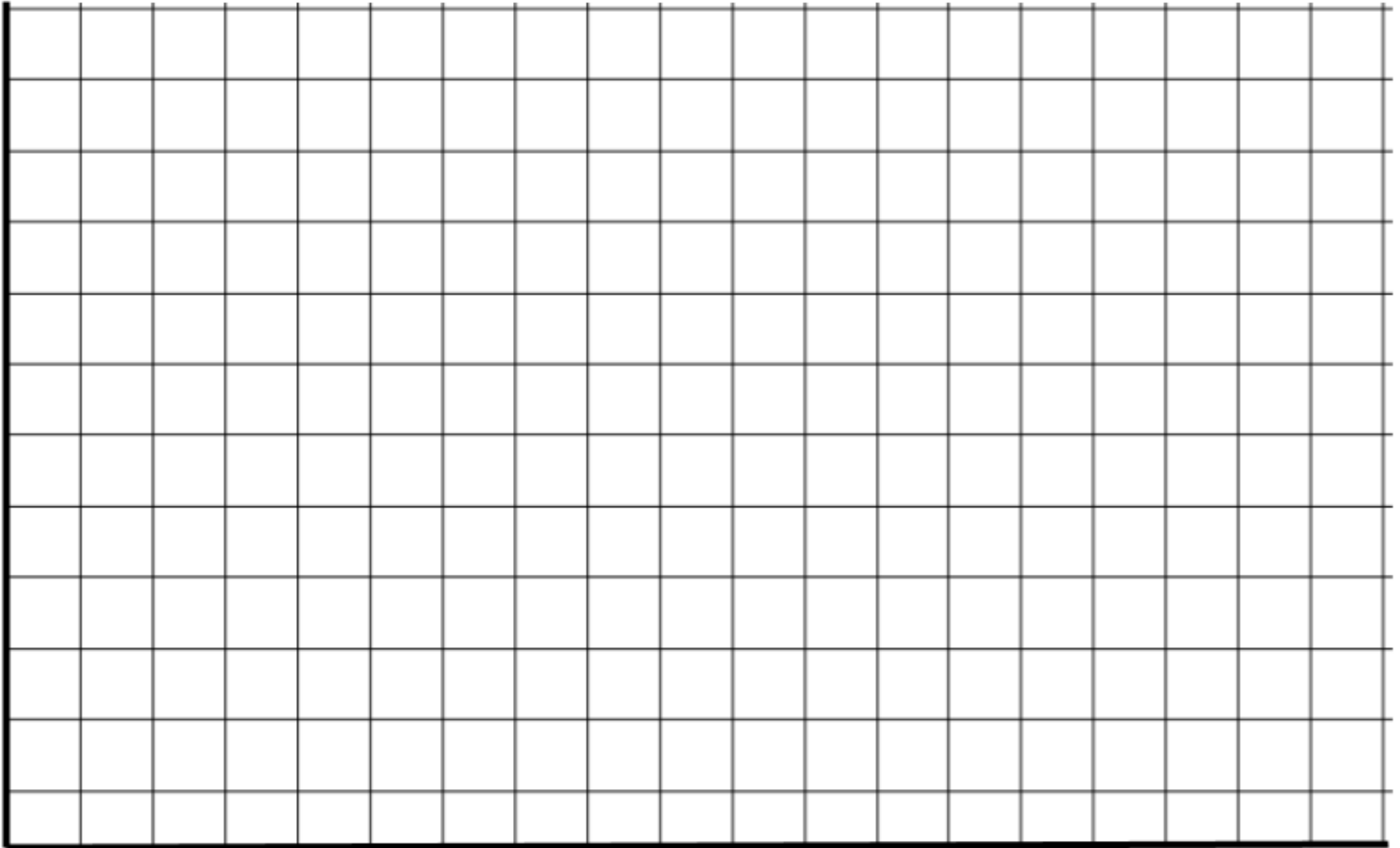
Define median.

Define mode.




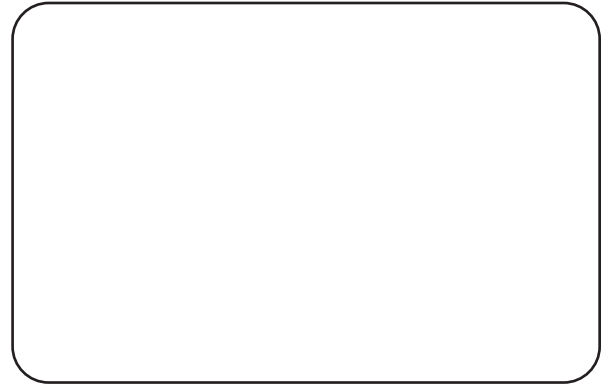

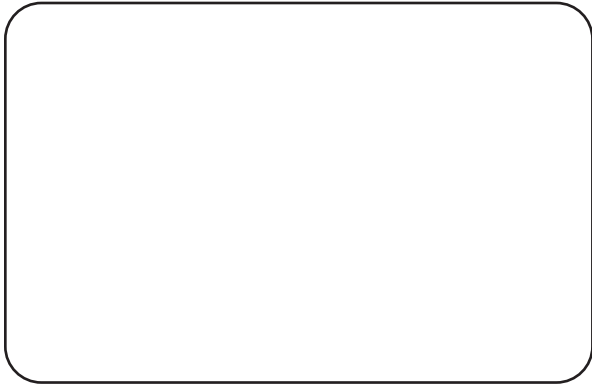
Why do we use graphs?

Ecosystem Wrap-Up

Time to graph your data! Make sure to label each axis and title your graph.



Dilemma Skit



A Few Minutes Alone

Sit quietly by yourself outside and think about the ecosystems that you have visited. Look around you. Look closely at the ground. Look up at the sky. Listen to the sounds. Smell the air. Feel the soil. Below, write or draw about the things you have observed and what you want to remember.

Cowles Bog Trail



Dunes Learning Center
 700 Howe Road, Chesterton, IN 46304
 219-395-9555 | curious@duneslearningcenter.org
DunesLearningCenter.org

Education Partner of
 Indiana Dunes
 National Park



Arts activities with support from:

