

Name: _____

Salt Marsh Plant Worksheet

Each group will be given a quadrat and a plant identification sheet.

1. Start on the trail, facing away from the marsh, toss your quadrat over your shoulder, this will be your random sample. When you are finished put your quadrat back on the trail.
2. Use the Marine Nature Study Area Plant Identification Sheet to identify the plants in the quadrat.
3. What is the most dominant species of plant in your sampling area? Draw it and write a short description.

Scientific name: _____

Common name: _____

Approximately what percent of the ground does it cover in your area?

4. What is the second most dominant plant in your area? Draw it and write a short description.

Scientific name: _____

Common name: _____

Approximately what percent of the ground does it cover in your area?

5. How far away is the quadrat from the edge of the water? Your answer should be in meters.

6. Look around you or ask the other groups about their results. What do you notice about plants as you move away from the salt water?

7. Why are plants an important part of a salt marsh ecosystem? List at least two reasons.

8. What happens when humans or land animals drink salt water?

9. How do you think these plants have adapted to living in salty water?

10. Why is it important to use the random toss to pick a site to measure plant biomass?