

Three Types of Field Investigations

Steps to create a Field Investigation	Descriptive	Comparative	Correlative
1. Formulate Investigative Question	<p>How many?</p> <p>How frequently?</p> <p>When did it happen?</p>	<p>Is there a difference between groups, conditions, times, or locations?</p> <p>Make a prediction or hypothesis about differences</p>	<p>Is there a relationship between two variables?</p> <p>Make a hypothesis about the relationship</p>
2. Identify Setting within a System	<p>Identify geographic scale of investigation (e.g. riparian corridor or Potomac River Watershed)</p> <p>Identify time frame of the investigations (e.g., season, hour, day month, year)</p>	<p>Identify geographic scale of investigation (e.g. riparian corridor or Potomac River Watershed)</p> <p>Identify time frame of the investigations (e.g., season, hour, day month, year)</p>	<p>Identify geographic scale of investigation (e.g. riparian corridor or Potomac River Watershed)</p> <p>Identify time frame of the investigations (e.g., season, hour, day month, year)</p>
3. Identify Variables of Interest	<p>Choose measurable or observable variables</p>	<p>Choose a measured variable in at least two different (manipulated variable) locations, times, organisms, or populations</p>	<p>Choose two variables to be measured together and tested for a relationship</p>