

FIELD PROCEDURE: AIR TEMPERATURE

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

- pocket stick thermometer
- data sheet, clipboard, pencil

PROCEDURE:

One person can perform this test.

HANGING THE THERMOMETER:

Unscrew the protective metal tube and put it in your pocket. The thermometer will still be attached to its "hat" in which a string is looped. Make sure the thermometer is dry, then hang it in a shady spot on the bank with good air circulation, preferably at about eye height, for several minutes to let it stabilize. We suggest you hang the thermometer as soon as you get to your site and then read it later while you're waiting for some of the other equipment to warm up or stabilize; just don't leave it hanging in the woods!

MEASURING AIR-TEMPERATURE:

After the thermometer has been hanging for a few minutes, first make sure the sun hasn't been shining on it. Estimate the reading to the nearest whole degree Celsius (°C). Wait 30 seconds and estimate again. If the reading hasn't changed, record it and sampler's initials on your data sheet. If the reading has changed, jot down the second reading, leave the thermometer hanging, and read it again a few minutes later. Record the temperature once readings have stabilized.

Record the sampler's initials. This should be someone who has been properly trained.

Screw the metal protective tube back on and put the thermometer back in the treasure box. Replicates not needed for air temperature readings.

COMMON SENSE AND EXPECTED RANGES:

Before packing up, make sure that your air-temperature reading conforms with your common sense. As a guide, here's a chart comparing Celsius degrees (the ones on your thermometer) with Fahrenheit degrees (which Americans are more familiar with).

Celsius degrees	Fahrenheit degrees
0	32
4	40
10	50
16	60
21	70
27	80

AIR TEMPERATURE

(This page is intentionally blank for printing.)