

# Noyes Property:

- Natural area
- Ecological research
- Fall & Spring
- We'll come up with a scientific question this 'Fall & answer in the Spring

## We'll create a scientific question

- Observations — find something of interest (A plant or group of plants)
  - Think about potential interactions
- ★ . Develop a rigorous scientific question

## Criteria for observations:

1. Start with a plant/plants
2. You need more than one location
3. You need a name(s)
4. Interesting to you

Make a detailed drawing of an interesting setting on campus. Give a brief description of the plants, animals, and environment you are observing. Your drawing does not need to be artistic – feel free to use a schematic diagram instead. Be sure to find a spot that's interesting to you!

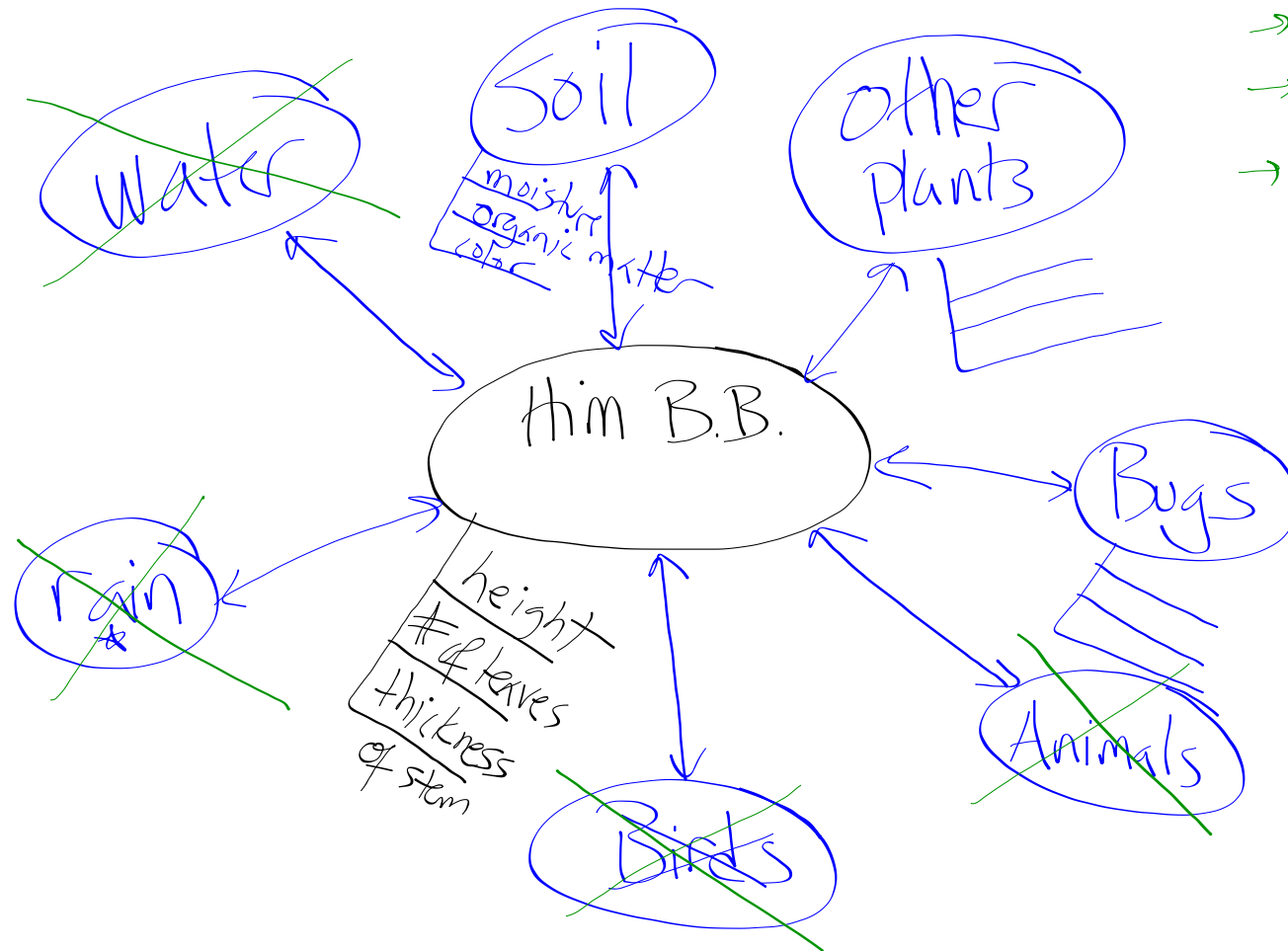
→ Ash swale (5 mins.)

Pick one element of this setting that you are particularly interested in. Be as specific as possible – if you are interested in a single tree, or a single animal burrow, be sure to make that known. Draw a picture or diagram and add clarifying details in writing.

→ A plant or  
group of plants  
(10 mins)

- What is interesting?
- Name?
- Interactions?  
(potential)

List some potential factors that might interact with or influence the element you described in question 2. Include interactions with plants, animals, and **abiotic factors** (non-living portions of the environment). Don't forget interactions with humans. List at least 5 possibilities. You do not have to necessarily think about cause and effect relationships; in this class, our studies will focus on correlations rather than cause/effect.



→ realistic  
→ observable  
→ interaction

- SOIL
- WATER
- INVERTS
- LICHENS
- PLANTS

For all the interacting factors you are looking at, come up with “measuring words” that indicate what you will measure when you are collecting data. Measuring words are phrases that make clear WHAT you will measure and HOW (in a general sense) you could measure it.

Height

mass

area

species

presence/absence

number

age

thickness

~~size~~  
~~growth~~



Using the factors you are interested and the measuring words you listed in question number 4, write 3-5 questions using the following format  
“What is the relationship between

# of leaves of Himalayan BB and  
measuring word main factor

moisture of soil ?”  
measuring word second factor