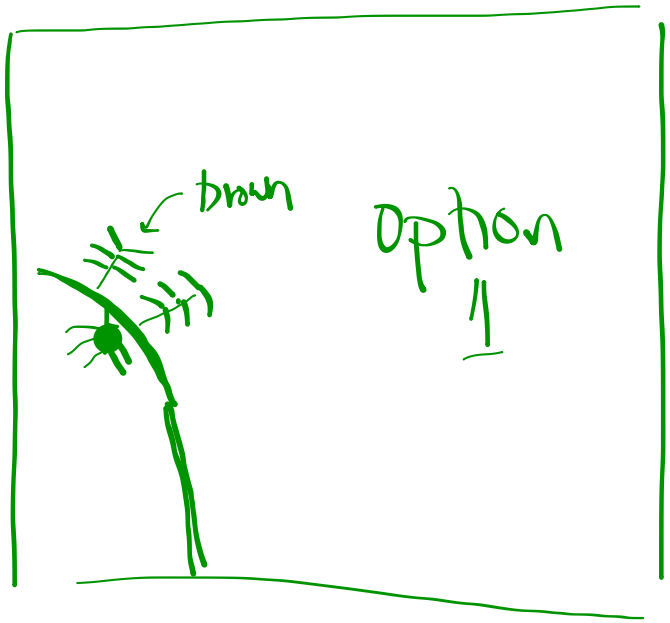
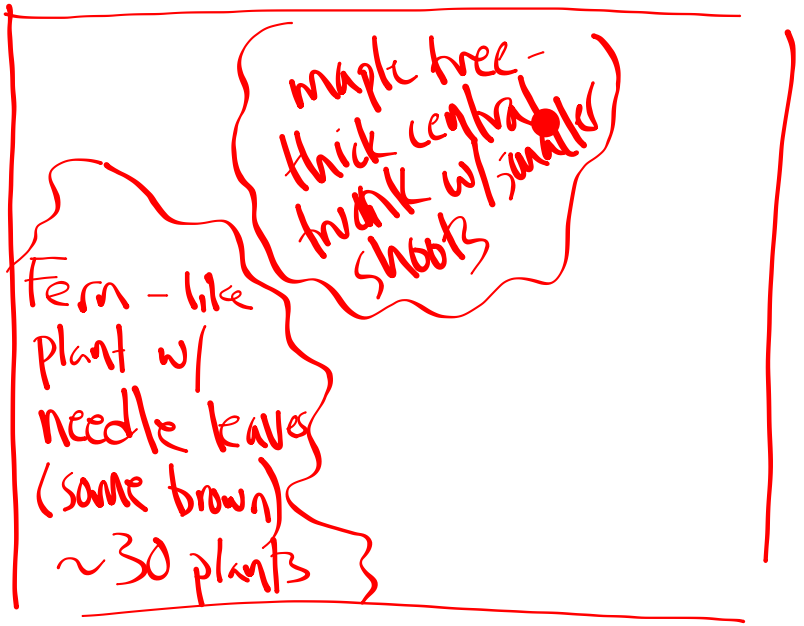
The purpose of this activity is: 1) To allow you to practice your skills of observation in a field setting, and 2) to give you practice in creating and refining a scientific question. We will use this process throughout the year to generate scientific questions that we will address in this class. Please work individually on this project.

1. 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!



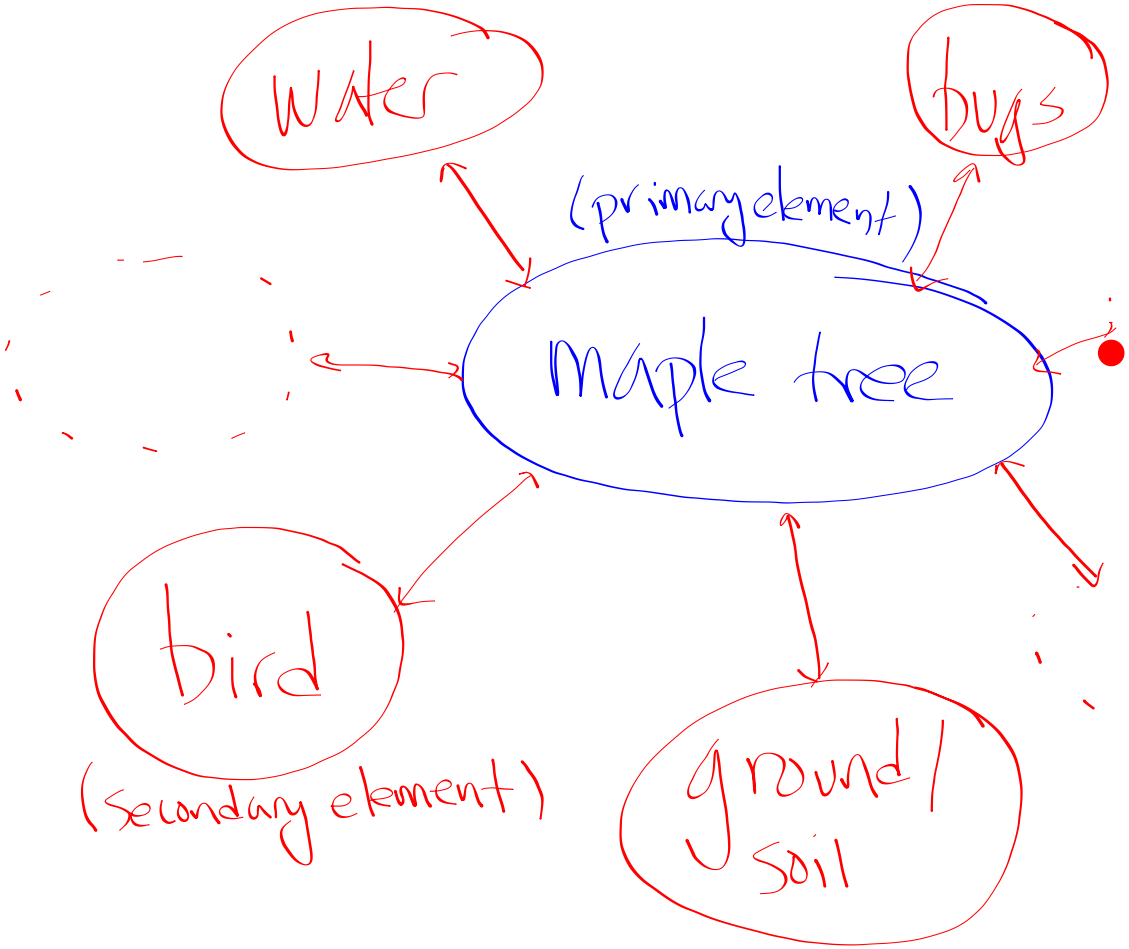


2. Pick one element of this setting that you are particularly interested in. Be as specific as possible – if you are interested in a single tree, or a single animal burrow, be sure to make that known. Draw a picture or diagram and add clarifying details in writing.

Ecology:

Looks at living things and they intract with their environment.

- What controls where things live?
- What controls how abundant they are?



Intractions:

- could affect or be affected by what you're looking at
- think about living or non-living things (all should have at least one living thing)

Next step: What kinds of measurements could you make?

primary element (ex. maple tree)	secondary #1 (ex. soil)	secondary #2 (ex. bird)	... #3 (ex. ...)
height	depth	count	
age	water	species	
species	acidity	size	

3. 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.

5. 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 _____ and _____ of _____?"

measurement primary element measurement

secondary element

What is the relationship between the age of a maple tree and the depth of the soil?

WITRB the height of maple tree and acidity of soil?