

Web It!

Equipment Card SWEEPNET

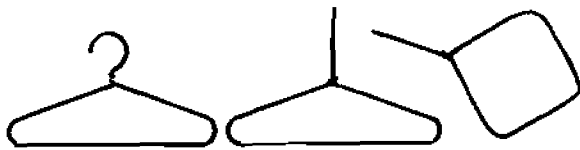


MATERIALS:

- 1 or 2 wire coat hangers (strong wire)
- 1 stick (approximately 1 meter long) for your net handle
- 1 piece of cheese cloth or netting for the net bag (about 60 cm by 90 cm)
- 1 needle and thread for sewing (or a sewing machine) or 1 stapler
- strong tape to attach net to handle

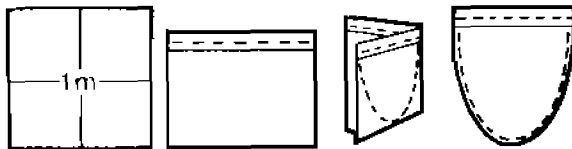
1. Preparing the hoop.

Take a strong wire coat hanger, straighten the hook, and pull the hanger into a square. (Use two hangers for added strength.)



2. Preparing the bag.

Your net should be almost one meter in circumference at the top, tapering down to a point. A sewing machine speeds up construction, but older kids can hand sew the nets if sufficient time is provided. Sew like this:



Fold one edge down 10 cm and sew.

Fold in half and sew or staple.

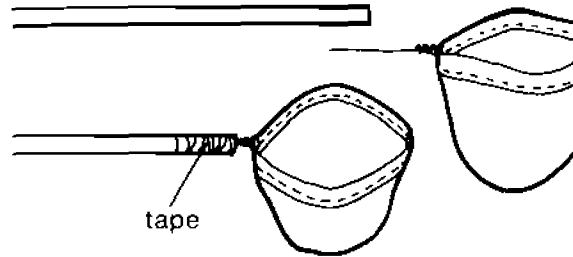
Cut off excess.

3. Assembling the net.

Open the wire square and thread on the net.



Attach wire hoop to stick



4. Using a sweepnet.

While a sweepnet can be used to pursue and capture an animal that has caught your eye, this is not the most efficient method of use. A sweepnet is best used as a random sampling tool. You walk at moderate speed across the grassy area, sweeping the net back and forth, keeping it close enough to the ground to brush the weeds or grass. The net should just brush across the top of the grass. The idea is to sweep any animals that are buzzing around or resting on plants into the nets, so you must turn the net in your hand to capture animals on both right and left swings of the net. After you have made fifteen to thirty swings of the net, flip the end of the bag over the wire frame to keep the catch from escaping.

How to transfer animals from net to observation bag:

A. Pinch the net closed, keeping the animals in the bottom of the net.



B. Turn net inside out while holding animals.

