

Field Course work on the Bruce County, Ontario as a Geography Science Student

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Introduction

The field course took place in the Bruce County, Ontario. It was a summer field experience that occurred from August 22 - 28, 2021. There was both a science and social science aspect of this field course. The science aspect occurred where field work was done from 8 am in the morning and retiring 5pm in the evening. Sampling took place in the River Crane Tract (Figure 1). There was also an analyzing perspectives as there were visiting to other parks to learn the different flora and fauna (Figure 2).



(Fig.1): The sampling took place in the River Crane Tract



(Fig. 2): A picture of The Bruce Alvar Natural Reserve

Study

The study was the impact of carbon and the biomass in the forest and to study the factors that impact it. There were a series of data collection that occurred. This was done by the science students. Data collection occurred by measuring the biomass of trees, getting organic matter from the ground, splitting the ground into quadrants, and getting a sample of wood from the tree bark (Figure 3).



(Fig.3): The sample collection of the biomass.

Importance

There are lots of possible controlling factors for the levels of carbon and biomass in the forest. By doing these measurements, one can understand the important effects of climate change can have on the forest. Also, there have been constant changes in the forest's behavior which cannot be learned through theory.

Significance

The importance of this field course was to take the experiences learned from the theoretical aspect and apply it to the practical field. It was also using the knowledge learned from previous geography courses and to apply it to this course. This made the field course more understandable and found some of the field work straightforward. This field course was a rollercoaster, especially learning about the different tree and plant species. Overall, it was a worthwhile experience. There were new skills learned such as using a clinometer to measure the tree angle and dendrochronology to measure trees.

Conclusion

The overall field course was a worthwhile experience especially in the COVID-19 pandemic times. It was nice to have a practical field course despite university being theoretical. There were transferrable field skills learned in this course that I can apply to other courses and in the geography. I can also share my experiences to others.