

Lake Sediment Core Subsampling

-Syringe Method-

You will need:

Split sediment core

Ruler/measuring tape/other measuring device

Small baggies or plastic vials

Sharpie

Several syringes with the tips cut off and the edges beveled to a wedge shape

A bunch of small Kimwipes

DI H₂O

Before subsampling, make a PLAN of attack. Where in the core are you going to take the samples? Middle? Side? At what sample interval? How much sediment are you going to take from each depth?

1. Place the sediment core on the lab table with a measuring device next to or on top of the sediment.
2. Label the baggies or vials with the core name and depths of all of the subsamples that you will be taking.
3. Check that the plunger of the syringe is at the very edge of the open end. The black part of the plunger will stick out from the end a bit.
4. Place the plunger on the sediment at the desired depth. As you push the syringe into the sediment, hold the plunger up so that it stays on the surface of the sediment and doesn't push into the sediment at all. This will help to create a vacuum to pull the sediment out more easily.
5. Pull the entire syringe and sediment straight out of the core. Place the sediment into the appropriately labeled baggie or vial.
6. With the sharpie, record on the baggie or vial the volume of the subsample.
7. Wash the syringe with DI H₂O. You will have to take the syringe apart to get all bits of sediment cleaned out.
8. Repeat steps 4-6 for all of your samples.

Sediments that have a high percentage of moss or coarse sand will be difficult to subsample with this method. Do your best! Otherwise, the block method may be easier.