

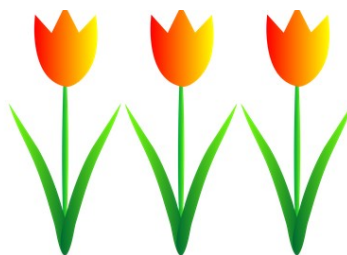
BIODIVERSITY BACKYARD CHALLENGE

6th-8th



Biodiversity is the variety of living things in a given place—whether a small pond, an extensive river, all the forests in the world, the oceans, or the entire planet. Explore your backyard and search for evidence of biodiversity using the challenge questions below. Record your answers on a separate sheet of paper or tablet.

1. Find a plant and describe its habitat.
2. Find a change to your backyard or neighborhood made by humans that decreased its biodiversity.
3. Find a plant predator.
4. Collect wild seeds then describe them and label their parts.
5. Locate unusual or rare plants in your backyard or neighborhood. Try to identify them.
6. Make a list of plants that you could add to your backyard to increase the biodiversity.
7. Name the five most common plants and animals in your backyard/neighborhood.
8. Find three plants with protective parts such as thorns or stickers.
9. Find evidence of a plant's response to an environmental factor.
10. Find two flowers that look the same but smell different.



BIODIVERSITY MATCH UP

Grades 6TH-8TH



Biodiversity is extremely important to people and the health of natural ecosystems. Biodiversity allows us to live healthy and happy lives. It provides us with an array of foods and materials, and it contributes to the economy. Without a diversity of pollinators, plants, and soils, our grocery stores would have a lot less produce.

Extinction is a natural part of life on Earth. Over the history of the planet, most of the species that ever existed gradually went extinct. Species go extinct because of natural shifts in the environment that take place over long periods of time, such as ice ages. Today species are going extinct at an accelerated and dangerous rate because of non-natural environmental changes caused by human activities. **Learn more below by matching the definition with the correct term.**

Definitions

1. _____ species that is introduced to a new habitat where it never existed before
2. _____ extinction event in which many species go extinct around the same time
3. _____ variety of life and its processes
4. _____ complete dying out of a species
5. _____ one of the most biodiverse ecosystems on Earth
6. _____ single biggest cause of extinction at present
7. _____ example of an ecosystem service provided by biodiversity



Terms to Match:

- A. biodiversity
- B. exotic species
- C. pollination
- D. extinction
- E. habitat loss
- F. mass extinction
- G. coral reef

HOME RECYCLE INVESTIGATION

Grades 6TH-8TH



How humans live has an impact on the natural world. Everything we need to survive is provided by nature. The water we drink, the air we breathe, the food we eat and all the things we use in our homes. Below is a simple investigation to conduct with your family to see how many paper resources you use and how they are either disposed of or recycled. Then answer the questions. By having a basic understanding of your use of natural resources your family is better equipped to make choices that can protect wildlife and wild places.

Complete the chart below to help you get started on your paper use investigation. Use the information you collect to think of ways you can help save forests.



	Amount Thrown Away	Amount Recycled	TOTAL
How many magazines does your family receive in one month?			
How many rolls of paper towels/toilet paper does your family use in one week?			
How many cardboard boxes (including cereal, cracker, etc.) does your family use in one week?			
How many pieces of paper does your family use in one week?			
How many newspapers does your family receive in one week?			
How many pieces of junk mail does your family receive in one week?			

What things that we can do to help save trees and forests? _____

What ways can your family can save paper (think of all paper products, not just writing paper)?

