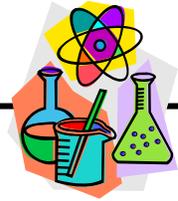


Grade 9 Unit A: Biological Diversity



Examining Diversity



Did You Know?

Scientists estimate that there may be as many as 100 million different plants, animals and micro-organisms on Earth.

Organism: Any living thing.

Species: A group of organisms that share similar characteristics or traits, and can successfully interbreed in nature, e.g., hammerhead sharks, roses, spider monkeys, dogs.



1. Visit areas in your community, such as parks, forests, rivers, ponds, lakes or farms, and record species that live there.

Make a chart with examples of different species in your community.

Mammals	Reptiles	Amphibians	Insects	Birds	Plants
Whitetail deer	Garter snakes	Tree toads	Mosquitoes	Goshawks	Spruce trees

3. Find **scientific** definitions for the following terms and rewrite them in your own words below.

Community

Population

Habitat

Niche

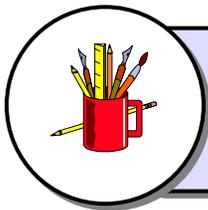
In a group, discuss how each of these terms relates to biodiversity. For example, what might happen to the **population** of a species if its **habitat** disappeared? Note the key ideas from your discussion in a graphic organizer such as a discussion web.



Use Tool [Discussion Notes](#).

4. Investigate an area that is in danger of losing one or more species, e.g., trees in the South American rainforest or species of fish in the ocean off of Canada's east coast. See [Steps for Getting Started with Research](#) and other documents in the research section of English Language Arts for help.

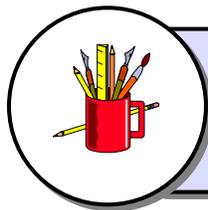
- Explain why this area is losing different species. Are they dying out, moving away, being destroyed by humans?
- Describe the effect this is having on the area. How are other species affected?
- Discuss how your community would be affected if these species disappeared.



Use Tools [Question Organizer I](#) or [Question Organizer II](#), [Finding Sources](#) and [Note Taking III](#) or [Note Taking VI](#).

5. Create a poster or other presentation to inform others about how your community would be affected if one of the following (or other species) disappeared. Think about how the species is connected to other animals or plants in the community.

- dandelions
- mice
- mosquitoes
- trout
- bees
- deer
- rabbits
- spruce trees
- wolves.



Use Tools [Poster Planner](#) and [Web I](#) or [Web II](#).

6. Within a species, there is variation. For example, various types of dogs differ in colour, size, shape, fur type, behaviour toward humans and other characteristics.

Describe the differences or variations of the following species of animals and plants:

- humans
- domestic cats
- evergreen trees
- birds.



Create a display that includes pictures to illustrate the variations within the species.