



Biodiversity is all the different kinds of life you'll find in one area—the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria that make up our natural world. (WWF)

The objectives of halting biodiversity loss and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems are included in Sustainable Development Goal 15. Learn more about this goal, the importance of biodiversity and the targets we should reach by 2030.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/biodiversity/>

Life on this planet, in all its wide diversity, is disappearing more quickly now than it has at any time in human history, and some 1 million species of plants and animals face extinction, new research from the United Nations has found. Just looking at living things on land we have lost 20% of our species with some sensitive groups like amphibians, it is more like 40% of species.

Investigating Biodiversity – Activities to increase understanding

1. Pond life

Ponds are great for biodiversity, not only for the creatures living beneath the surface but also the wide range of plants that grow and animals that visit the ponds.

Braywick Nature Centre – Pondlife 15 minute video

'Pond Dip' features a variety of aquatic life, including tadpoles, snails, damselfly nymphs and great diving beetle larvae, and covers topics such as predators and prey and the differing life cycles of insects and amphibians. Presented by Alistair and Jason.

<https://vimeo.com/415903899>

2. Wildlife in new places during lockdown

During lockdown when our cities have been much quieter and people have been at home, some interesting and unlikely visitors have been taking to the streets.

Video of animals enjoying the peace and quiet of city life

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=247855852991537>

Funny 3 minute video showing animals all around the world venturing onto the city streets; This situation does raise some important questions – Can you see any benefits or problems with what you saw on the video? what do you think will happen after lockdown? How are animals and humans going to live side by side? Do humans have more rights?

TO DO: Investigate some of the of the animals you saw in the video. Find out where their natural habitats are? Are their habitats under threat? Which animals were endangered?

Bitesize link – What animals are more visible in the UK?

Have a look on this bitesize link to find out about wildlife in the UK that seems to be more noticeable as humans are in lockdown.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zh9zgwz>

Article for teachers or parents about the animals venturing onto the city's streets all round the world
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/22/animals-cities-coronavirus-lockdowns-deer-raccoons>

3. Problems for our Prickly Friends

Learn about hedgehogs

This link has load of interesting information from, hedgehog myths to their feeding habits and the problems they are facing. Hedgehog populations are in decline mostly due tour actions!

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/about-hedgehogs/hedgehogs-history/>

4. Investigating biodiversity in your garden or local area

These activities are all about working scientifically to investigate plant life in your area.

Eden Project Science Patch

This activity from the Eden Project uses a quadrat to record living things, it also has a downloadable ID sheet

<https://www.edenproject.com/learn/for-everyone/pick-a-patch-science-activity>

Centre for Alternative Technology – activity to make your own quadrat

This is probably better for upper KS1 and KS2, if you want to develop additional construction DT skills.

https://www.cat.org.uk/cat-at-home/cat_at_home-families/build-a-quadrat/

ID Flowers in Spring Summer

file:///C:/Users/Learn/Downloads/May_spotters_sheet2016.pdf

5. The Weird Wonders of Diversity

Find out about some of the weird and wonderful living things that contribute to our diverse planet.

Attenborough video of carnivorous plants KS2 (3 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUDiDAy3F8>

10 carnivorous plants upper KS2 (10 mins)

Great visuals but goes into lots of detail on how the plants work to capture and eat their prey. Suitable for upper KS2 and interesting for adults.

The Weird creatures from the ocean

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/animals/sea-life/strange-sea-creatures/>

Although to be fair we have lots of weird creatures in our ponds

Can you make a model of a weird (imagined or real) pond or ocean creature from clay, salt dough, plasticine or even lego. List all its strange creature features explaining how it breathes, what it eats and how it captures its prey

Action for Biodiversity – Activities to improve biodiversity locally

1. Create a pond in your back garden

Wildlife trust guide

This link gives step by step guide to creating a pond in your back garden

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-create-mini-pond>

RSPB – video on building a pond in your garden

This video is short, clear and uses equipment that will be found in most households.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=7&v=PB1dpkXdUcQ&feature=emb_logo

CAT version of a mini pond

https://www.cat.org.uk/cat-at-home/cat_at_home-families/build-a-tiny-pond/

2. Toad Hall – create a home for toads and frogs

Perhaps near your pond you could build a ‘Abode for a Toad’

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/give-nature-a-home-in-your-garden/garden-activities/makeafrogandtoadabode/>

3. Help Diversity in your back garden

'No Mow May' campaign – this links to a great citizenship science database. At least try and leave just a small patch and see what happens.

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts/>

The Wildlife trusts are also encouraging us to leave at least a small area to grow wild. They have lots of fun outdoor activities to encourage biodiversity.

<https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/outdoor-activity-sheets>

Leave your garden wild



Take a day off today and do nothing! Leave a wild spot in your garden by not mowing the lawn, or not weeding the paving – nature will love it!



Illustration: Corinne Weick © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2015

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

4. Helping Hedgehogs to thrive

Hedgehog street campaign

This link will take you to the wonderful citizenship science of monitoring and recording hedgehog behaviour in your back garden.

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/hedgehogs-after-dark/>

Sign a petition

To ensure all new estates have hedgehog highways to help them find food and mates.

https://www.change.org/p/help-save-britain-s-hedgehogs-with-hedgehog-highways?use_react=false

More to come in 'Biodiversity 2' – email or ring the contact below if you want more information.

Upcycling for Nature

Some great craft activities that will also help nature.

<https://www.sustainablelearning.com/resource/upcycling-nature>