



Backyard Biodiversity

This activity reminds us biodiversity is all around us in our own backyards, out in our community, parks or any green space no matter how small. Become a citizen scientist and see what (and who!) you are sharing your environment with.

Remember, it is not only about how many different species you find but also the number of each species, as this is also part of healthy biodiversity. Finds can include anything from the bees buzzing around, the plants and trees or the worms in the ground. Look up, down and all around!

Materials: Clipboards, pencils, biodiversity checklists; Book of native plants and animals (optional)

Directions:

1

Head outside! Go into your backyard or to a nearby park or green space.

2

Challenge everyone to find as many different plants, animals and insects as possible in the space available to them. It would be helpful to have a book or brochure of native plants and animals to help you identify what you find.

3

Record the species you find on the checklist, as well as how **many** you see! You can also record observations on the [iNaturalist Canada](#) app, where every observation contributes to biodiversity science, from the rarest butterfly to the most common backyard weed.

What IS Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the variety of living species on Earth, including plants, animals, bacteria and fungi. While Earth's biodiversity is so rich that many species have yet to even be discovered, many species are also at risk!

Dive deeper!

For a great visual explanation of what biodiversity is all about, check out this [video from TED-ed](#).

Biodiversity Checklist

How many different species can you find outside around your home?

Animals

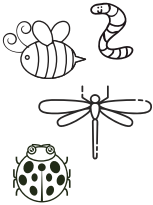


Hint: Look for animals and signs of animals, like tracks, bits of fur or poop.

Species:

Number:

Insects and Bugs

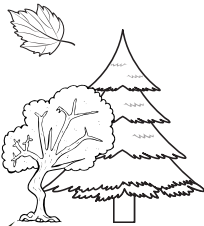


Hint: Look for crawling, burrowing and flying bugs, spiders or worms.

Species:

Number:

Trees



Hint: Look for different kinds of leaves, needles or bark.

Species:

Number:

Plants



Hint: Look for bushes, grasses, plants or flowers.

Species:

Number:

How many different species did you find?

How many things in total did you write down?