

Biodiversity Activity Guide








What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the variety of animals and plants and habitats found on this planet. It is important everywhere, from your backyard to a National Park, biodiversity plays an important role in maintaining healthy ecosystems.

Why do we care about Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is extremely important to people and the health of ecosystems. A few of the reasons are: It provides us with an array of food, medicine, as well as oxygen (from plants) and clean water (from wetlands)!

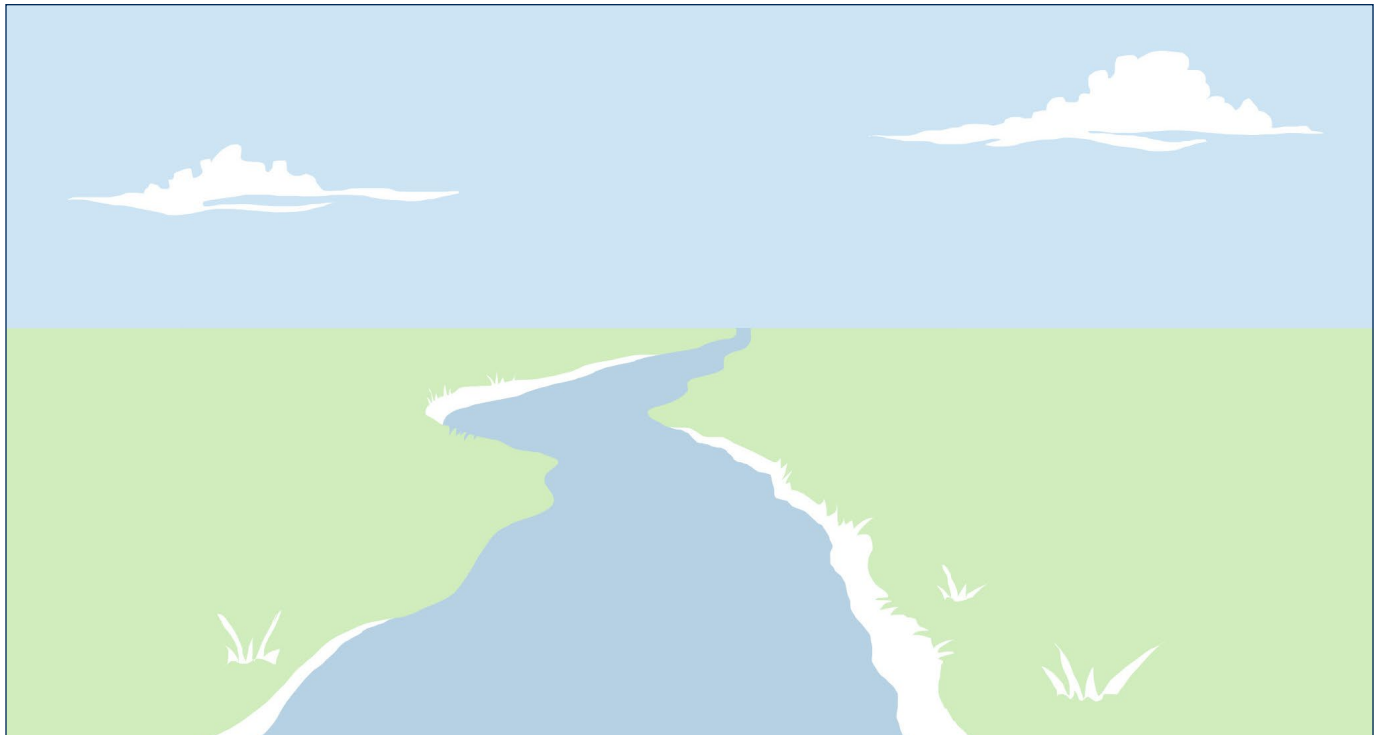
What biodiversity can you find? Color in the box on this Scavenger hunt when you find it:

 <p>something with WINGS</p>	<p>an example of CAMOUFLAGE</p>	 <p>a plant that is TALLER THAN YOU</p>	 <p>two POLLINATORS</p>
<p>CARNIVORE</p>	<p>PREDATOR</p>	<p>PREY</p>	<p>draw a SEED</p> 
<p>HERBIVORE</p>	<p>OMNIVORE</p>	<p>a FUNGUS</p> 	<p>a VINE</p>

Biodiversity by the River

Next time you visit a river, see how many different kinds of plants and animals you can find. Use numbers or tally marks in the table to the right to keep track of how many of each organism you see. Draw your favorites into the scene below to create an illustrated snapshot of the river's biodiversity!

MAMMALS	
BIRDS	
ARTHROPODS	
PLANTS	
FUNGI	



CITIZEN SCIENCE RESOURCES:

Recording the biodiversity of an area can be an immense project, so scientists and researchers have developed ways to call on the public to help submit data for projects such as this, through citizen science. Find more ongoing citizen science projects with the help of these resources and join one today!

- SciStarter: Database of citizen science projects.
- Zooniverse: Join in on actual scientific research from the comfort of home.
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology: Citizen science central.
- World Water Monitoring Challenge: Engage in water quality testing and share results.
- FreshWaterLIVE: A Distance Learning Adventure
- CitizenScience.gov: Helping federal agencies accelerate innovation through public participation