



Eco-Schools USA at Home: Biodiversity

HOW-TO ASSESS BIODIVERSITY AT HOME

WHY THINK ABOUT BIODIVERSITY?

Habitats for plants and animals need our help. We know our body requires a variety of food to keep it healthy and to run its best. If you only ate one kind of food, your body would not be healthy, and you would not have what you need to grow and do the things you love. This same idea applies to the environment, too. When we talk about biodiversity in habitat, we are very simply saying that it is the variety of life, plants, and animals on Earth. The more native biodiversity present in a habitat, the healthier the habitat is likely to be.

MATERIALS

- Eco-Schools USA at Home Audit and Action Plan
- Optional-papercraft materials
- Optional-smart phone app, SEEK by iNaturalist



GUIDING QUESTIONS

RESEARCH THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS. THEY WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE TOPIC BETTER.

- 1) What is biodiversity?
- 2) Why is biodiversity important to animals?
- 3) What do humans do to impact biodiversity?
- 4) Why are native plants better for the environment?

STEP BY STEP

- 1) Read through the *Eco-Schools USA at Home Biodiversity Audit and Action Plan* and decide on dates to do a pre-action audit and a post-action audit. This will help determine the length of your project.
- 2) Choose which type of biodiversity audit to complete. Option 1. In my yard/neighborhood/green space or Option 2. Virtual assessment-online only.

OPTION 1

Make observations in an outdoor space. You will need a pencil, something hard to write on, and your audit worksheet. If you cannot print the worksheet, use scratch or notebook paper to create your own chart.

OPTION 2

Use pages 4 and 5 of the *Biodiversity Audit and Action Plan* worksheet to better understand what biodiversity is and to tell the difference between a space that is and is not biodiverse.

- 3) After implementing your action plan, conduct a post-action audit, and share your results with your teacher, extended family, and or the local community.