



# Biodiversity: Explore the Diversity of Life on Earth

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*Biodiversity: Explore the Diversity of Life on Earth* is packed with lots of great information on biodiversity and why it matters. It includes many fun activities for students that show how all things on Earth are interconnected.

## READ

**Before:** Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *what do you think this story is about?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

I wonder what those pictures on the cover have in common?

**During:** Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words

- biodiversity – the existence of many different kinds of plants and animals in an environment
- ecosystem – includes living things, such as plants and animals, and things that are not living, such as rocks, soil, sunlight and water
- erosion – the gradual wearing away of the earth’s surface, usually by wind or water
- chemosynthesis – the process some organisms use to create energy from chemicals instead of the sun
- extremophile – an organism that thrives in environments that most other life forms cannot
- photosynthesis – the process by which a green plant turns water and carbon dioxide into food when the plant is exposed to light
- renewable energy – energy from a source that is not depleted when used, such as wind or solar power
- sustainable – involving methods that do not completely use up or destroy natural resources



## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How is everything on Earth related to everything else?
- How has life on Earth become so diverse?
- Where can you find biodiversity?
- Why is biodiversity important to humans?
- What are the threats to biodiversity today?
- What can we do to protect biodiversity on Earth?
- What can you commit to doing to help protect our planet?

**DO**

We all have a role in protecting our planet. Talk about those roles with your students and encourage them to find ways to make a difference. Select an activity from this book to get a better understanding of biodiversity and how humans are interconnected with millions of other species on our planet.

Watch this TED Talk video on why biodiversity is important:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GK\\_vRtHJZu4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GK_vRtHJZu4)

