

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Biodiversity of Life: Exploring the Outdoors

Goal: The point of this activity is to look carefully for organisms in the world around you. Later you will work cooperatively as a class to create a master list of organisms found in the sample area. Each individual is responsible for finding as many organisms as possible and they must represent at least 3 different kingdoms.

Materials: Worksheet, pencil, notebook/ extra paper for drawing and making notes (optional: digital camera)

For collection/ identification of organisms: Hand lens, binoculars, field guides, various nets (skim, sweep, butterfly, fishing), and plastic bags and buckets.

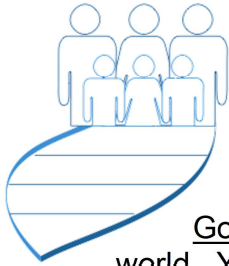
Procedure:

1. Bring collection materials to the open space designated by your teacher.
2. Look carefully for living things.
3. Draw or describe the organisms in the chart. If you are taking photos you must still complete the chart

Notes:

- a. Plants can be collected by cutting a representative branch, be sure to include or describe the bark, flowers, leaves, stems for identification.
 - b. Looking under rocks, planks of wood and dead branches is helpful for finding organisms, but be sure to leave habitat as you found it.
4. Recollect all of your materials and return to the classroom.
 5. Use the field guides to identify any unknown organisms.

General Description/ Drawing	Kingdom (Plant, Animal, Fungi, Protist, Bacteria)	Location (where was it found- be specific)	Common name Latin name



Name: _____

Date: _____

The Biodiversity of Life: Exploring the Numbers

Goal: To display or compare the diversity of organisms in the living world. You have already listed some organisms that can be found in your daily life, let's compare that value to the number of identified organisms in the world.

Materials:

Paper

Pencil/pen

Creativity

Procedure:

1. Read "Greatest Mysteries: How Many Species Exist on Earth?"

http://www.livescience.com/strangenews/070803_gm_numberspecies.html

2. Summarize the main points in the space below. Focus on answering the question "how many species are there?" and note problems facing scientists trying to estimate this number.

3. Classroom discussion question: How does the value in the article compare to the list the class created?

What are some of the issues that make it difficult for scientists to determine the number of species on the planet?

4. Work with a partner or in a group of three to make a model or a comparison for the number of species our class identified compared to the number on the planet. (You must show your calculations)