



ILLINOIS BIODIVERSITY

CD-ROM Activities

Section 1: What is Biodiversity?

What's Your Biodiversity IQ?

Take a "gee-whiz quiz" to find out how much you know about biodiversity, especially in Illinois.

LEARNING STANDARDS: English language arts: Writing Standards for Literacy in Science, Production and Distribution of Writing, 4; science: MS-LS2-5

Sizing Up Species

Classify organisms using a classification flow chart, play a team game to find out how many species may exist within different groups of organisms, and make a graph to illustrate the relative abundance of living things.

LEARNING STANDARDS: science: MS-LS2-5

Backyard BioBlitz

Answer an ecoregional survey, then take a firsthand look at biodiversity in your community.

LEARNING STANDARDS: English language arts: Writing Standards for Literacy in Science, Production and Distribution of Writing, 4; science: MS-LS2-5

The Gene Scene

Play several different games that introduce genetic diversity and highlight why it's important within populations.

LEARNING STANDARDS: science: MS-LS4-4, HS-LS4-3

Section 2: Why is Biodiversity Important?

The Nature of Poetry

Read and discuss several poems related to biodiversity, then write original biodiversity poetry.

LEARNING STANDARDS: English language arts: Writing Standards for Literacy in Science, Range of Writing, 10

The Spice of Life

Explore beliefs and values about why biodiversity is important and why it should be protected.

LEARNING STANDARDS: English language arts: Writing Standards for Literacy in Science, Production and Distribution of Writing, 4; science: MS-LS2-5

Secret Services

Perform simulations that demonstrate some of the important ecosystem services that biodiversity provides.

LEARNING STANDARDS: science: MS-LS2-5

Section 3: What's the Status of Biodiversity?

Endangered Species Gallery Walk

Conduct research to create a poster about an endangered species in the state of Illinois and then take a walk through a poster "gallery" to find out more about threatened/endangered species around the state.

LEARNING STANDARDS: English language arts: Writing Standards for Literacy in Science, Production and Distribution of Writing, 4; Research to Build and Present Knowledge, 8, 9; science: MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-5, MS-LS2-1, MS-LS2-4

The Case of the Greater Prairie-Chicken

Work in small groups to discover how the greater prairie chicken's decline is tied to the major causes of biodiversity loss in Illinois and discuss what people are doing to help protect the greater prairie-chicken.

LEARNING STANDARDS: English language arts: Writing Standards for Literacy in Science, Production of Writing, 4; Research to Build and Present Knowledge, 8, 9; Range of Writing, 10; science: MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-5, MS-LS2-1, MS-LS2-4, MS-LS4-5, MS-LS4-6, HS-LS4-4

Space for Species

Play an outdoor game, conduct a survey of plant diversity and analyze current research to explore the relationship between habitat size and biodiversity.

LEARNING STANDARDS: English language arts: Writing Standards for Literacy in Science, Production of Writing, 4; Research to Build and Present Knowledge, 8; science: MS-LS2-1, MS-LS2-4, MS-LS2-5

Section 4: How Can We Protect Biodiversity?

Future Worlds

Build a pyramid to reflect personal priorities for the future. Investigate the way humans affect the natural world and discover how people are working to protect the environment and improve the quality of life in Illinois and on earth.

LEARNING STANDARDS: English language arts: Writing Standards for Literacy in Science, Production of Writing, 4; Research to Build and Present Knowledge, 8; Range of Writing, 10

Career Moves

Read profiles of people who work in biodiversity-related professions in Illinois. Conduct interviews of people in your community with similar occupations.

LEARNING STANDARDS: English language arts: Research to Build and Present Knowledge, 8, 9; Range of Writing, 10