

Natur entdecken – Vielfalt checken

Talking about Biodiversity

Habitats for animals and plants disappear due to humans and the warming of the planet. For example, forests are being cut down and cities are expanding. Some species seek new habitats, others become extinct. Across the world, up to 150 species go extinct every day.¹ If many people know about this, it is easier to protect animals and plants.
Who could help you do this?

Flower fields

Blooming plants in a field give dragonflies, bees, and butterflies food and a place to live. Some insects in turn pollinate plants as well as fruit trees. In this way, plants and animals help each other. Habitats of insects are becoming smaller and smaller. That's why many species are going extinct.
Plant a field of flowers.

Schoolyard

The schoolyard is a diverse habitat. Many species of animals, plants, and mushrooms live in fields of flowers, ponds, and hedges. Humans spend time here, too.
What does your schoolyard look like?

Nature

Many people like to spend their free time in nature. Its sights, sounds, and smells relax us and make us happy. But we can also disturb animals like deer during our forest excursion. You can also protect nature by being gentle with animals and plants.
How about doing nothing?

Animals

Dead trees, fallen branches, and twigs are called deadwood. For stag beetles, woodpeckers, and mice, it's food and habitat. Piece by piece, they process the wood, cleaning up the environment. Did you know that 1 in 5 animals and plants in the forest need deadwood in order to live?²
Who can you find here?

Art

Nature's diversity is exciting. Humans have always been fascinated by the beauty of nature. Many colors, shapes, and sounds can be found again in inventions, works of art, and music.
Create your own piece of nature artwork.

Medicinal Plants

We humans take much of what we need to live from nature. Our food and our clothing are made of plants like grain and cotton. Animals provide meat and leather. Medicines are also often made from herbs and medicinal plants.
Find out if there are herbs growing in your schoolyard.

Varieties of Apples

There are over 20,000 varieties of apples worldwide.³ In Germany, there are usually only 30 varieties available to buy.⁴ Some are green, others are red. They taste sweet or sour. The diversity of varieties is due to different genetic material – the genes.
What is the name of your favorite apple?

Water

Water is everywhere: in the ground, in the air, and even in us humans, who are also largely made up of water. It covers three quarters of the planet and is an important and diverse habitat. Think about fish in the seas and rivers or frogs in lakes. Drinking water comes from nature, too. For water to remain a basis for life, it must be clean.
How does water stay clean?

Soil

There are more creatures living in a handful of healthy soil than there are humans on the planet.⁵ Many small creatures, mushrooms, and bacteria work on making the soil fertile. Here, the earthworm plays an important role. To grow well, plants need fertile soil with many nutrients, water, and light.
What do you know about soil?

Food

Growing food and raising livestock requires a lot of space. This can damage the soil and pollute water and air. Organic, regional, seasonal, and plant-based products are gentle on the environment and the climate. They protect biodiversity as well as your health.
How does a "biodiverse breakfast" taste?

Discover Nature - Spot Diversity

Where do stag beetles, woodpeckers and co. live? How many creatures are living in a handful of soil? And why do we humans depend on a healthy environment with many kinds of plants and animals?

Biological diversity means that there are many different species. It describes a genetic diversity within species as well as a variety of habitats such as forests, mountains, lakes, and even cities. These provide a home for many species of plants and animals, and for us humans, too. There are millions of species across the world. Humans are just one of them. Many species remain undiscovered even today.

Biological diversity is the foundation of life for us humans. It provides us with drinking water, food, wood, medicine, and much more. We humans take more from nature than it can give us in the long run. That means biodiversity is threatened by humans and their actions. Find out why biodiversity is important and what you can do to protect it.

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Implemented by:
Bildungscnt e.V.

Supported by:
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

based on a decision of the German Bundestag

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Collect information about why habitats are under threat and why it is important to protect biological diversity. Maybe your class could host an information day? Together with others, write a postcard to the school principal and ask for support.

Material: postcard

Idea that was put into action:

Art

Together with others, search for natural materials like stones, sticks, and leaves. Design a nature mandala:

You can paste the class's favorite dried found item here:

Water

Waste often ends up in nature and pollutes water. Have a litter cleanup day and find out how much litter is in your schoolyard:

In _____ class, _____ children helped to keep nature clean. The litter cleanup lasted _____ minutes. Together, we found and picked up _____ different pieces of litter in nature. We collected _____ kg of litter in total.

Flower fields

You created a new habitat and have given insects and plants a home. Draw your favorite flower or insect and paste the drawing onto the poster here:

Material: flower seed mix and work paper

Plant the flower seeds only in the schoolyard and not in the wild.

Medicinal Plants

Go on a herbal hike or plant a bed or pots of herbs like thyme, lemon balm, or sage. What superpowers do they have? Find out what herbs you can use to make tea.

You can paste a dried leaf here:

Name of herb:	Superpower / helps with:

Picture of my class with our favorite found objects

Schoolyard

Many animals see their surroundings from a different perspective than we humans – they are large or small, they fly or crawl.

Draw a picture or write a short story: As a bird, what do you see when you look down at the world? As a caterpillar, who do you encounter as you crawl through the grass?

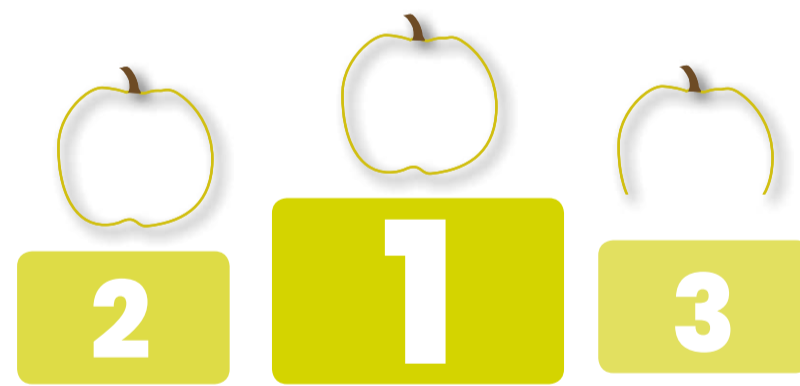
Varieties of Apples

You can find a selection of apples at the supermarket, organic shop, or farmer's market. What varieties can be found there and where do they originate from? Which apple tastes the best?



The tastiest apple varieties were:

Together, our class sampled _____ varieties of apples.



Soil

Find out fun and interesting facts about soil. They should show why soil is important.

Make a poster with your classmates. List your favorite facts:

1. "Did you know that ..."
2. "Earthworms ..."
3. ...

Nature

Lie down in a quiet place, close your eyes, and listen to nature. What do you hear and feel?

Write down a feeling you felt while doing nothing:

Material: "do nothing" card

Animals

Together with your classmates, collect sticks, branches, and leaves and make a deadwood pile. After a few weeks, many animals will be living here. Fill out the fact sheet.

How many animals are living in the deadwood pile?

How many legs do the animals on the fact sheets have in total?

Food

You can buy many regional and seasonal products at farms or farmer's markets. Farmers can tell you why their products are environmentally friendly.

Organize a "climate-friendly biodiverse breakfast".

Our class selected the following foods:

Publishing information
Status 2023

Publisher
BildungsCent e.V.
Oranienstraße 183
10999 Berlin

Concept and Text
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Graphic Design and Illustrations
Christiane John

Image Credits
Forest animals: sergeypykhonin/123RF.com;
Woodpecker and Sparrow: Vectorprodesign/123RF.com;
Insects: magicleaf/123RF.com;
Woodlouse, Frog: Blueringmedia/123RF.com;
Animal Silhouettes: Pavel K/Shutterstock.com;
Mouse: Matnikola/123RF.com;
Herbs: everlida/123RF.com; Hedghog: Shamlini/123RF.com

Printed by
Printzipia, printed on Vivus 89, 100% recycled paper

Sources
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