



## Activity 1 **Biodiversity begins here**

Introduces the concept of biodiversity in a simple way as a precursor for a range of other activities. The activity encourages vocabulary and observation skills.

Curriculum area(s)	Resources needed	Preparatory activity
<p><b>Literacy and English</b> Listening and talking; reading.</p> <p><b>Science</b> Planet Earth – biodiversity and interdependence.</p>	<p><b>Outdoor/indoor space</b> For a seating circle, with a writing surface (hard surface/large sheet of paper/outdoor blackboard) and chalk/pens/pencils.</p> <p><b>Laminated A4 letters</b> B-I-O-D-I-V-E-R-S-I-T-Y letters (and duplicates depending on class size).</p>	<p><b>Gather a range of natural materials</b> Leaves, pine cones, shells, stones etc. Sort them into groups of same/different. Discuss the features used for separating them into groups. Look at individual groups e.g. pine cones – can you find variety within one type of group? Is it possible to find anything <i>exactly</i> the same as something else? This begins to introduce the concept of variety <i>between</i> and <i>within</i> species.</p>

### Main activity description

**With the group in a circle**, muddle up the letters and hand one to each person. If there are more than 12 in your group, assign several people to one letter.

**Going around the circle**, can each person think of the name of a living thing that begins with the letter they hold/share?

**Write down the letters** and the corresponding names beside each letter. Continue until the group runs out of names/time. Make this more difficult by limiting the selection of names to Scottish wildlife until the game runs out of steam.

**What words do the letters make?**  
Can the class juggle their laminated letters round on the ground to spell BIODIVERSITY?

**Explore what BIODIVERSITY means.**  
Look at the definitions provided in this pack.



### Extension activities

**Explore the roles of living things and their place in our lives**  
Do they help us? Think about the different functions provided e.g. pollinate plants, provide food (directly or indirectly), clothing, materials, medicine, control insect pests, purify air/water etc.

**See the SNH Biodiversity toolkit** for *Scottish facts and figures* which includes in its *Life in Scotland* section *The value of biodiversity in Scotland*. [www.snh.gov.uk/](http://www.snh.gov.uk/) Search for Biodiversity toolkit.

### Sources & further inspiration

**FEI website**  
[www.foresteducation.org](http://www.foresteducation.org) Activities on Biodiversity in Woodlands can be found by searching for Biodiversity in the Learning Resources section.

**Explore diversity *within species*** with the SNH TeachingSpace activity, 'Spot the difference' available through the LTS outdoor learning website [www.ltsotland.org.uk/outdoorlearning](http://www.ltsotland.org.uk/outdoorlearning) via 'school/centre grounds – resources' subsections.

