



BioBlitz - tracking biodiversity

Summary:

A BioBlitz is a biodiversity survey that works as a fun activity for engaging learners with their local environments to see what plants and wildlife are present. It is a great way of combining scientific methods with art, and the activity can be used as a basis for many different conversations around biodiversity and landscapes, wildlife conservation, life cycles, seasons, and anatomy/botany. You can use this activity to encourage learners to think about the different species of plants, animals, and insects that live in different environments by conducting the BioBlitz in various locations. The BioBlitz is a tool to also show children how the wildlife they find varies over time based on seasons and changes in the environment - both natural and man-made. This is a fun activity to do as a class, or with a group of children as part of Eco-team activities (or similar). This is also the perfect activity to do as part of [Outdoor Classroom Day](#) on the 3rd November.

Key Stage / Age group: It can be easily tailored to any age group and to learners at varying stages of understanding or with varying abilities.

Time needed: 30 mins +

Location: You can do this activity in any location. We recommend choosing a green space such as a park, playground, or garden, as there will be more species to record. We recommend doing a BioBlitz in various locations to show how different environments affect biodiversity. e.g. Choose 3 locations: a non-greenspace (e.g. paved area), a greenspace with lots of different plants (e.g. wildflower patch or grass bordering hedging), and a greenspace without many different types of plants (e.g. lawn).

Curriculum links:

KS1 - Science - to be able to name common plants and animals in their habitats

KS2 - Science - habitats

Activity links:

We recommend using this activity in conjunction with our other activities that work to support wildlife, in order for learners to track how their actions affect biodiversity. There is nothing more motivating and empowering than seeing that you can have a positive impact!

This activity works well in combination with:

[Create a wildflower patch](#)

[Create a water feature for wildlife](#)

[Build a bug hotel](#)

How to plan & complete a BioBlitz

What you'll need:

- ❖ Clipboards
- ❖ Pens or pencils
- ❖ BioBlitz observation sheets (printed) - attached
- ❖ Wildlife identification sources
- ❖ Camera
- ❖ Magnifying lenses (optional)



How to:

Simply go outside and observe the wildlife in the location you have chosen! We recommend putting learners into groups to observe in different parts of your chosen location, so that you cover all ground and don't note down the same organism multiple times.

Make sure you:

LOOK EVERYWHERE: Under rocks, in water, up trees, under leaves. Leave no stone unturned, literally! Try your best not to disturb the wildlife, and make sure you don't pick any plants unless you're sure of what it is and have a specific use for it - some plants are toxic or threatened, and should be admired from afar!

ENJOY YOURSELF: Slow down and truly enjoy being in nature. Notice all of your senses - what can you see, hear, smell and feel?

RECORD: Document everything in detail. Take photos, draw pictures and make sure you give the exact location of the creature found (try using longitude and latitude). Why not have a competition for the best photo or most accurate drawing?

IDENTIFY: Use guidebooks, the internet, apps, and local experts to identify every species you have found throughout the day. It's always best to use a few different identification methods to be sure!

Here are some of our favourite identification sources for young wildlife explorers:

Books:

- ❖ What to look for in Spring - Ladybird book
- ❖ What to look for in Summer - Ladybird book
- ❖ What to look for in Autumn - Ladybird book
- ❖ What to look for in Winter - Ladybird book
- ❖ RSPB First Book of Minibeasts
- ❖ RSPB First Book of Flowers
- ❖ RSPB First Book of Butterflies and Moths
- ❖ RSPB Children's Guide to Nature Watching
- ❖ Know Your Nature: British Wildlife by Caz Buckingham & Andrea Pinnington
- ❖ What's that Garden Bird? by Caz Buckingham & Andrea Pinnington

Observation sheet 1

Observer(s): _____

Location: _____

Date + time: _____

Weather: _____

Sketch and label your observed organism here:

Common Name: _____ Scientific Name: _____

Notes: (size, colour, markings, exact location, behaviour, amount of them, any other organisms near)



