

Biodiversity Theme:

New words to learn:

*Suitable for All
Students*



Below is a list of some of the key words you might need to learn while working on Biodiversity. Each is explained in simple terms that can act as a starting point for growing your understanding of Biodiversity as a theme.

- **Biodiversity:** from 'Bio' meaning life and 'diversity' meaning lots of different types, Biodiversity is all living things on planet earth.
- **Ecosystem:** An ecosystem is made up of the interaction of all living things (like animals, plants, and bugs) in an area with all of the non-living organisms (like water, dirt, rocks, and the sun).
- **Habitat:** is the home of an animal or a plant. Almost every place on Earth, from the hottest desert to the coldest ice pack, is a habitat for some kinds of animals and plants.
- **Native:** Native plants are plants that grow naturally in a Ireland. These plants have been here since the last Ice Age.
- **Species:** a group of living things that naturally produce young with other members of the same group but not with those of other groups.
- **Deciduous:** The word deciduous means "to fall off" and it relates to how the leaves of a plants or tree's fall off in the autumn.
- **Nutrients:** Nutrients are important substances you get from food that help your body survive and grow. Plants need nutrients to grow well too! Plant nutrients are found in the soil. Pollen
- **Pollen:** Pollen is a fine powder produced by most plants when they reproduce (make new plants).
- **Pollinators:** Pollinators are any animals that help spread pollen form plant to plant. Most plant species depend on pollinators to transport pollen and allow them to reproduce. Some examples of pollinators include bees, wasps, moths, butterflies, birds and bats.
- **Photosynthesis:** Photosynthesis is the process in which green plants use sunlight to make their own food.
- **Perennial:** A perennial plant is a plant that lives for more than two years. Many perennials grow and bloom over spring and summer, die back during winter, and grow again the following year from their roots.
- **Nectar:** Nectar is the sugar-rich liquid that's produced by flowers. It's a food source for many pollinating insects.

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- **Germinate:** The seed will germinate or start to grow into a plant, if it gets enough water and sunlight.
- **Dispersal:** dispersion is the way seeds are carried or spread to other places. Depending on the type of seed, they can travel by way of wind or water or be carried by birds and animals
- **Omnivore:** Omnivores are animals that eat plants, meat, algae, and fungi.
- **Migrate:** Many mammals, birds, fishes, insects, and other animals move from one place to another at certain times of the year. This movement is called migration. Migration is part of the life cycle of these animals.
- **Nocturnal:** describes a living thing that sleeps during the day but becomes active during the night. Some examples of nocturnal animals are owls, bats and hedgehogs.
- **Hibernate:** when some animals have long periods of deep sleep during cold weather. To help them prepare, hibernating animals eat lots of food during autumn so they can survive the cold winter.
- **Predator:** a bird that lives by killing and eating other animals. **Prey:** a bird that is hunted or killed by another animal for food.
- **An exoskeleton:** is a hard covering that supports and protects the bodies of some types of animals. The word exoskeleton means "outside skeleton."
- **Metamorphosis:** is a process some animals go through to become adults. It is a series of physical changes. Metamorphosis is especially common in insects.
- **Mammal:** A mammal is an animal that breathes air, has a backbone, and grows hair at some point during its life. In addition, all female mammals have glands that can produce milk for their young.
- **Omnivore:** Omnivores are animals that eat plants, meat, algae, and fungi. **Herbivore:** An herbivore is an animal that mostly feeds on plants. **Carnivore:** A carnivore is an animal that mostly eats meat, or the flesh of animals.
- **Invertebrates:** An invertebrate is an animal without a backbone.
- **Amphibian:** An amphibian is a cold-blooded vertebrate animal that is born in water and breathes with gills.