

Biodiversity Awareness Survey

Teachers Guide

Introduction

The Biodiversity Awareness Survey should be carried out in Year 1 and Year 2 of the theme. The aim is to see how student's knowledge changes as they work on the programme. Don't worry if awareness levels are low at first!

Teacher Survey Guidelines

The Biodiversity Awareness Survey includes a number of general questions relating to biodiversity. You will be asked to add the results of the survey in both years with the application form.

Teachers can choose which class or classes will complete the survey, depending on what suits best for their school. Survey as many students as practical to get a clear picture of biodiversity awareness. You may wish to avoid surveying junior classes if you have a large school. Be aware that you can help the younger students by adjusting the language.

If you wish you can add extra questions, perhaps see if students can identify some common Irish plants or animals.



Biodiversity Awareness Survey



Step 1

Print off copies of the Biodiversity Awareness Survey (Be eco-friendly! Save paper, print two surveys per sheet if possible)

Step 2



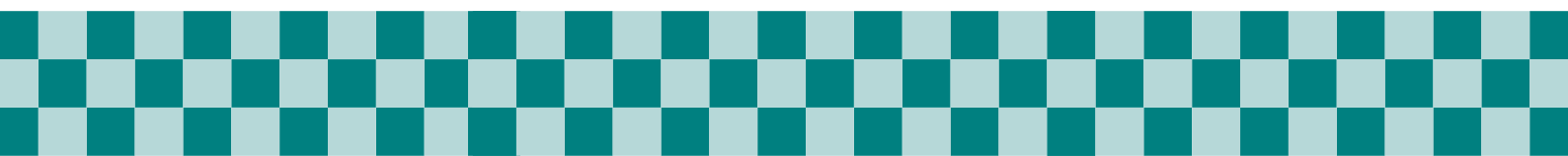
Pass out the survey sheets among the students – be sure to inform students that this is not an 'Exam' or 'Test'! Students do not have to include their name on the sheet.

Step 3

Option A: For older students, they could each fill out their own sheet and return them.

Option B: For younger students you could read the question together to make sure it is understood and then give students time to write an answer. After question 1 "What does the term biodiversity mean?" is answered, explain that it means all of the different living things in nature/all plants and animals before you continue.

Option C: For even younger students, you can carry out the survey verbally and write in their answers for them. You may wish to carry this out with a smaller group to save time!



Biodiversity Awareness Survey

Step 4

Collect all survey sheets from the students (& staff)



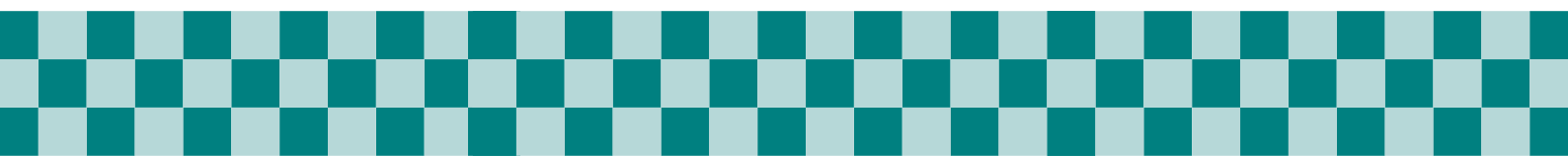
Step 5

Decide who will mark the answers and how you will display your results.

Secondary school students may be able to do everything themselves but for primary schools, the coordinator or another teacher should mark the answers.

You can add your results to the application form so you don't lose track of them!

Consider making a graph or chart to display your results and add to the Green-Schools Notice Board.



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Notes for Correcting Surveys

If you are unsure of the correct answers to any of the questions please refer to the Green-Schools Biodiversity Handbook. If the answer is not entirely accurate use your own judgement, for example, look at the two sample answers given below:

Q2. What does 'biodiversity' mean?

Looking after the environment



Q2. What does 'biodiversity' mean?

Birds and trees



The first answer could be marked as being wrong while the second answer could be marked as being correct.

***Sample correct answers**

Q2. All living things/ Plants and Animals/ nature/ wildlife etc

Q3. Provides services to us, e.g. helps provide food/is our food, stops flooding, gives us oxygen, bees pollinate flowers, worms keep the soil healthy, regulates climate, gives us green space, good for exercise/mental health etc.

Q4. Threats include losing habitats/green space/trees, climate change, litter, pollution, pesticides, over-fishing etc

Q5. Ways to help, include: growing plants for bees/pollinators, adding bird boxes, bat boxes, bug hotels, leaf piles, compost- heaps, plant trees, plant wildflower areas, letting areas grow wild, installing a pond etc.

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After carrying out the survey, consider asking the Green-Schools Committee to prepare a presentation to help fill in any of the gaps in knowledge and show in an assembly or in class. You could also share a video like one of these:

1. David Attenborough- What is Biodiversity.
2. Try a song for junior students- The Biodiversity Song or Billy B

Repeat the same survey in Year 2 as part of your Monitoring & Evaluating to compare results and measure any changes in biodiversity awareness.

Sample graph showing % increase in level of awareness between Year 1 & Year 2

