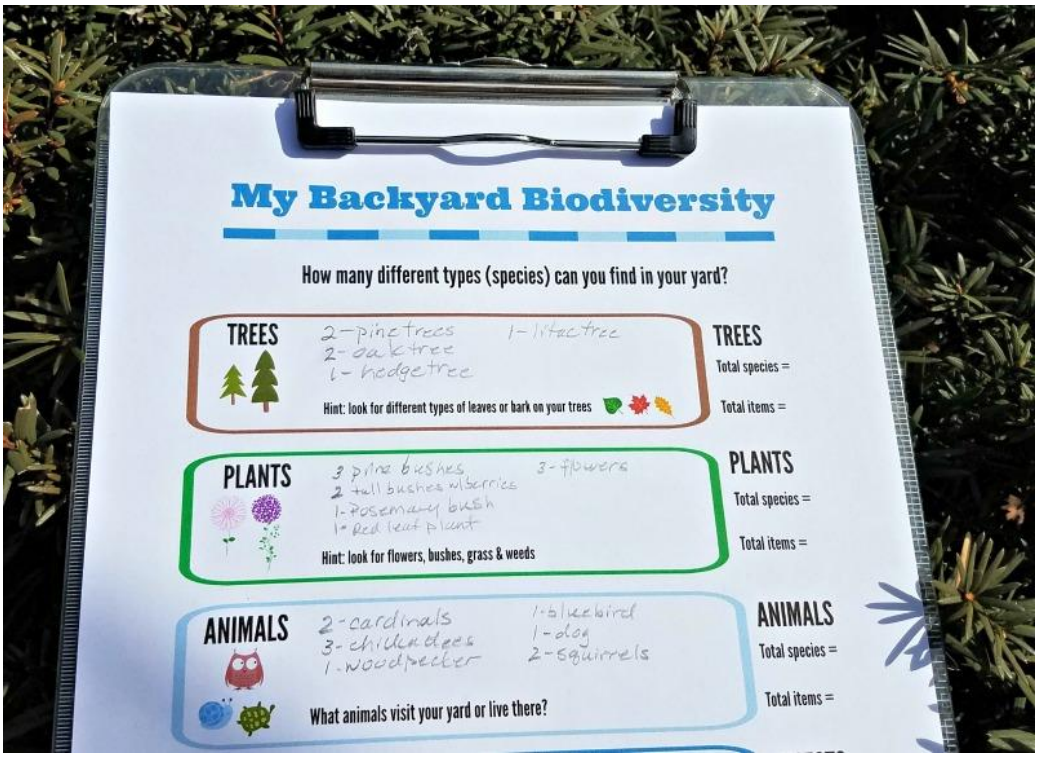
ASHEVILLE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Backyard Biodiversity

Using a worksheet from KCEdventures, we're going to calculate the biodiversity index of our backyards!

Grab your pencil and worksheet and head outside. We're going to count the different plants and animals we see, and how many of each! If you have a big yard or a lot of trees, you can pick a section to count in!

Go around your yard and identify the different species of trees (you can draw a picture or describe it if you don't know the name), and then count how many of each species you see. The do the same for birds, small animals, and finally insects and bugs.



Then, you'll add up all of your species together, and all the animals you saw together, and then divide the species by the animals. That's your biodiversity index! The smaller the decimal number means your backyard biodiversity is low. This can change during the seasons, and even day to day when the weather isn't ideal. So try it a few times to see if you can get an average biodiversity index!

https://www.kcedventures.com/blog/outdoor-science-biodiversity-for-kids

My Backyard Biodiversity

How many different types (species) can you find in your yard?

TREES

Hint: look for different types of leaves or bark on your trees

TREES

Total species =

Total items =

PLANTS

Hint: look for flowers, bushes, grass & weeds

PLANTS

Total species =

Total items =

ANIMALS

What animals visit your yard or live there?

ANIMALS

Total species =

Total items =

INSECTS & 'BUGS'

Look for flying, crawling & burrowing insects and spiders.

INSECTS

Total species =

Total items =

$$\text{Biodiversity Index} = \frac{\text{total \# of different species}}{\text{total \# of living items}} = \frac{\qquad\qquad}{} =$$