

Resource Guide: Biodiversity

JOHN
MUIR
AWARD

wild places:
DISCOVER
EXPLORE
CONSERVE
SHARE



“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.” John Muir

WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth. It is all around us. Not just in wild places and nature reserves but also in our cities, the places we live and work, our farmland and our countryside. We're all part of this truly amazing diversity of life and we need it! Biodiversity is the life support system of our planet and serves us in many ways, providing:

- Food, medicines and other materials
- A clean and healthy environment
- Colour and beauty in our surroundings
- Spiritual uplift and restorative therapy
- An important part of our arts, cultures and traditions



2011-2020 has been declared the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity. It aims to implement the UN Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and promote its overall vision of living in harmony with nature. Each day counts. The actions taken by individuals, organisations and governments are important steps, one building on the other, towards balancing the needs of the natural environmental with those of people, agriculture and

developments. There are many ways to get involved: visit [United Nations Decade on Biodiversity](https://www.un.org/development/desa/indicators/2011-2020-decade-on-biodiversity/) for more details, or chat to your John Muir Award contact about linking biodiversity to your Award.

Resource Guides available: John Muir, Campaigning, Biodiversity, Wildlife Gardening, Surveys, National Parks, Outdoor Access, Outdoor Learning. Go to www.johnmuiraward.org then click on Resources & Links

USEFUL WEBSITES:

This is by no means an exhaustive list – just a starting point.

John Muir Award [Biodiversity Stories](#) - A wide range of inspiring Biodiversity Stories showing how groups have engaged with Biodiversity as part of their Award.

National History Museum www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/biodiversity/ - The UK Biodiversity portal; a great starting point to exploring Biodiversity with your group.

National Biodiversity Network www.nbn.org.uk/ - Submit a sighting through [irecord](#) to your local record centre.

Field Studies Council ID charts www.field-studies-council.org/publications.aspx - Videos, images and facts on the world's species, as well as great educational resources.

The Wildlife Trust www.wildlifetrusts.org (UK) www.swt.org.uk (Scotland) - Practical guides and information on wildlife gardening, species & habitats, and '[Wildlife watch](#)' for children under 16.

Scottish Natural Heritage www.snh.org.uk/snhi - Develops policy and research, provides grants and protects designated sites and lesson ideas. Also have a [Biodiversity Toolkit](#) for advice on explaining biodiversity, as well as great educational [posters](#).

Natural England www.naturalengland.org.uk - Information on all aspects of the environment including wildlife.

Wales Biodiversity Partnership www.biodiversitywales.org.uk - Find out about the work of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership and how you can help.

Biodiversity Scotland www.biodiversityscotland.gov.uk - Keep up to date with the biodiversity news and developments in Scotland and grant opportunities.

RSPB www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/wildlifegarden - Info on ways to attract wildlife, create garden habitats, species of the month and tailored advice for your garden. Bird call recordings – good for those with visual impairments.

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust <http://bumblebeeconservation.org> - Information on how to help bees and their habitats.

Biodiversity Begins with a B www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_otglfIQw4 - A darkly comic look at the importance of bees to our natural environment

Bat Conservation Trust www.bats.org.uk Butterfly Conservation www.butterfly-conservation.org - General information on bats and butterflies, how to protect them and how to attract them to your garden.

Freshwater Habitats Trust www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/habitats/pond/ - Aims to protect freshwater life for everyone to enjoy.