

Defining BIODIVERSITY

Standards (NYS): Science: 1, 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, ELA: 1, 3

Objectives As a group, participants will build a working definition of biodiversity.

Time 15 minutes

Materials

- easel or chalkboard
- marker or chalk



Instructions

1. Working in a group, ask students what two words comprise the word, “biodiversity.”
2. Next, invite students to define **diversity**, then **biological**, and record the responses.

Based on these definitions, craft a group definition of **biodiversity**. This can be your group’s own definition, reflecting the specific words and values generated by the students. A couple of example definitions are included here for your reference. A thorough list of biodiversity definitions can be found by searching online for “biodiversity definition”.

- *“The variety of life forms: the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems they form. It is usually considered at three levels: genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity”*
- *“The variety of life on our planet, measurable as the variety within species, between species, and the variety of ecosystems”*