BIODIVERSITY & BIOBLITZ

The variety of life on Earth

An event focused on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time

Photos by Karine Aigner/NGS (top left, right); Katja Schulz (bottom left); Chris A. Johns/NGS (bottom right)

How many plants, animals, and other living organisms on Earth have been identified and given a scientific name?

How many species do scientists estimate there are on Earth?

How many plants, animals, and other living organisms on Earth have been identified and given a scientific name?

1.75 MILLION

How many species do scientists estimate there are on Earth?

7 MILLION

Which two of these organisms are most similar?

Which two of these organisms are most similar?

Photo by Petr Paplanus

Photo by Jim

Which two of these organisms are most similar?

Photo by Tod

Photo by Larry McAfee/NPS

Photo by Michael Mayer

TAXON GROUPS

A taxon (plural "taxa") is a group of organisms with similar characteristics at any level of biological classification (class, order, family, etc.)

Coyote (*Canis iatrans*)

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SEGMENTED WORMS (ANNELIDS)

- invertebrate, soft body
- segmented body
- no legs
- includes earthworms, marine worms

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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

MOLLUSKS

- invertebrate, with soft body
- body has head and foot
- body covered in mantle that can secrete a hard shell
- includes snails, squid and octopus, clams

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ARACHNIDS

- invertebrates, with hard exoskeleton
- two body parts
- eight legs
- includes spiders, tarantulas, scorpions, ticks, mites

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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

INSECTS

- invertebrates, with hard exoskeleton
- three body parts
- six legs
- includes grasshoppers, bugs, beetles, flies, ants, bees, butterflies, and moths

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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

BONY FISH

- vertebrates, have bony skeleton
- cold-blooded
- gills
- scales and fins
- includes salmon, swordfish, eels

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AMPHIBIANS

- vertebrates
- cold-blooded
- live in water as larvae and on land/water as adults
- no scales
- includes frogs, toads, salamanders, newts, caecilians

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REPTILES

- vertebrates
- cold-blooded
- lungs
- scales
- includes lizards, snakes, alligators, turtles, tortoises

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BIRDS

- vertebrates, with hollow bones
- warm-blooded
- lay eggs
- feathers
- includes hawks, jays, owls, ostriches, penguins

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MAMMALS

- vertebrates
- warm-blooded
- hair
- live birth and produce milk
- includes dogs, bears, rodents, whales, humans

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PLANTS

- make own food through photosynthesis
- most contain green pigment called chlorophyll
- cannot move
- includes green algae, ferns, conifers, and flowering plants

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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

FUNGI

- absorb food from host
- most bodies made of network of tubes called hyphae
- reproduce by spores
- include mushrooms, slime molds, yeast, molds

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