



## Discovering Biodiversity Anywhere

Looking for ways to help youth take a snapshot of local biodiversity, the variety of living things in an area? Exploring a place—whether urban, rural, or suburban—will usually result in finding a variety of living things and signs of life. Hearing a bird or squirrel call, or finding a feather or snail shell, is a sign of the wildlife that coexists with us. In taking time to look for the life around us, we are often surprised that there’s more there than we realized.

This activity is designed to give students in out-of-school time programs the opportunity to look for living things outdoors or even through a window. The BIO and BLITZ Bingo games let students focus on places where organisms live—in a tree, under rocks, in soil, on plants, and more.

This activity guide is made possible with the generous support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. Tag your photos with **#NatGeoBioBlitz** and inspire others to explore outdoors.

### Activity: BIO and BLITZ Bingo

30-45 minutes or more

Can be adapted for all ages

**Objective:** Students practice exploring and observing to find wild animals and plants in a variety of places in a set area.

**Where:** A park, schoolyard, backyard, on a neighborhood walk, or through a window. Virtually or in-person.

**Students will need:** One copy of one or more of the bingo sheets provided: “BIO” (for a

short activity or for younger students), or “BLITZ” (for older students), pencil, colored pencils or markers (optional).

**Technology:** Optionally, the instructor and/or students can use the [Seek](#) app or the [iNaturalist](#) app to help identify plants, animals, and other living things. The iNaturalist app requires registration, so is ideal for ages 13 and older.

### Directions:

Determine the boundaries of the area where students can explore. Talk about respecting wildlife and the habitats where animals and plants live. For example, if students lift a rock to see what’s underneath, remind them to return it to its original location. Provide either the BIO Bingo or BLITZ Bingo sheets and a pencil and then let them explore and play the game.

# BIO Bingo

“Bio” means life! Look and listen for wild animals, plants, or other living organisms. No pets or plants in a garden or pots allowed. Draw a picture or write the name of what you observe in the box below each description. If you find and mark three across, down, diagonally, or four corners, you win “BIO”!

B	I	O
on or under a rock	on a tree or bush	on a trail or sidewalk
on a plant	in the air or sky	on the ground
in, on, or near water	in or on a building	in or on soil

# BLITZ Bingo

A BioBlitz is an opportunity to explore and discover what lives in a place. Look and listen for wild animals, plants, or other organisms. No pets or plants in a garden or pots allowed! Draw a picture or write the name of what you find in the box below each description. If you find and mark a line across, down, diagonally, or in four corners, you win "BLITZ"!

B	L	I	T	Z
on or under a rock	in, on, or near water	in a tree	on a park bench	on a trail or sidewalk
on a shrub/bush	someplace surprising	in the air or sky	in a hole	in or on a building
in, on, or near water	on a trail or sidewalk	FREE	on a plant	someplace surprising
on a plant	in a puddle	someplace surprising	in the grass or weeds	on or under a rock
in the air or sky	in the grass or weeds	on a building	in a tree	in or on soil

## More resources:

- Find National Geographic’s BioBlitz afterschool guide, videos, data sheets, guidance for iNaturalist activities and projects, and more here: [natgeoed.org/bioblitz](https://natgeoed.org/bioblitz)
- Explore online the biodiversity in your community by searching your location on [iNaturalist.org](https://iNaturalist.org).
- Explore the species observed in any of the national parks in this collection of iNaturalist projects from the National Park Service: [www.inaturalist.org/projects/national-park-service](https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/national-park-service).
- To create your own bingo cards for a specific location, look for websites such as [this one](#).