

# BIO WHAT?

## What is Biodiversity?

**Bio** means living and **diversity** means different. Together they refer to 'different living things'. So, **bio-diversity** means the variety of plants and animals, the genes they carry and the communities in which they live.

**Ecosystems** are the communities where plants and animals live together in harmony.

## When do we have biodiversity?

We have biodiversity when we have lots of different plants in different layers.

**More plant layers = more biodiversity.**

The three main plant layers are: groundcovers, shrubs and trees.

**Activity 1:** Select an area of bush (your teacher will help you with this) and count the number of different plants in each layer. Record the number using a tally system (||||).




You may get a chance to do this in a second area of bush. Otherwise, select an area in your school playground and do the same.

Compare your results.

Which area has the greater biodiversity (Area 1 or Area 2)?

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**Activity 2:** Sketch leaf shapes, flowers, seeds or bark in the table to show differences. Some have been done for you.

	Area 1		Area 2	
No. of different trees  	Tally (###)	Sketch	Tally (###)	Sketch
No. of different shrubs  	Tally (###)	Sketch	Tally (###)	Sketch
No. of different groundcover plants  	Tally (###)	Sketch	Tally (###)	Sketch
Evidence of animals eg droppings, chewed leaves, scratch marks, webs, footprints, trails	List		List	

Based on Bio-diversity Playground Sheet in 'Earth Alive', Field of Mars EEC