

BACKYARD BIODIVERSITY BINGO

WINTER EDITION

Look for a variety of living things that contribute to a healthy habitat. Try to find them all!

TOOLS



What you'll need:

- An outdoor space, like your backyard or a nearby natural area
- A bingo card for each player
- A pencil for each player
- A scientist's sense of curiosity
- The power of observation

How to play:

1. Look up any terms you're unfamiliar with before you set out to explore. If you'd like, you can write down notes on your bingo card.

2. Visit an outdoor space, like your backyard or a nearby natural area. Remember to stay safe: Dress warmly, bring a grownup if you leave your yard, maintain physical distance from others and be careful around water.
3. Look for the living and non-living items on the card. To support biodiversity, don't remove anything from its natural habitat. Observe only—do not touch, feed or disturb the wildlife.
4. Move slowly and quietly for the best chance to see animals. In winter, you may see fewer animals, but more signs that animals are around, like scat, hair and bones. You may also spot twigs that have been nibbled by rabbits or deer.
5. Cross off your observations on the bingo card as you go. See how many items you can find and compare with your fellow bingo players to see how many of you got five in a row—or maybe even a full card!

How does it work?

Biodiversity measures the variety of life in a habitat or ecosystem. Greater biodiversity means a habitat can support more living things. It also means the habitat is healthier and more resilient.

What can you do to improve biodiversity in your neighbourhood? How can you help animals survive the winter?



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Add diversity to your observations

- Revisit the area at a different time of day. What surprising things did you find? What changed?
- Check out another area with different natural features. Which area had more biodiversity? Why do you think that might be?

Is your bingo card full?

Create your own! Here's a list to help get you started:

- Leaves that are waxy
- A diurnal animal
- A winter nature sound
- Tree bark with a papery texture
- A Black-capped or Boreal Chickadee
- An insect gall
- Animal signs: bones, fur or scat

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| <p>A woodpecker hole</p>  | <p>Leaf litter for overwintering insects</p>  | <p>An arboreal animal</p> | <p>A leaf "skeleton"</p> | <p>An animal preparing for winter</p> |
| <p>Two types of animal tracks</p> | <p>Signs of life under the snow</p> | <p>A shrub with berries</p> | <p>Something that doesn't belong</p>  | <p>A tree with cones</p>  |
| <p>Three types of natural seeds for birds</p> | <p>A granivore</p> |  | | <p>A big patch of snow</p> |
| <p>A hazard to birds</p>  | <p>Milkweed pods</p> | <p>Lichen</p> | <p>A homeotherm</p>  | <p>A daytime roost for an owl</p> |
| <p>A conifer for shelter</p> | <p>Acorns and nuts</p>  | <p>A tangle to hide in</p> | <p>A source of open water</p> | <p>An animal with a fur coat</p>  |