TechFest digital

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATORS

CAITHNESS INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL

With Spring in the air and warmer weather on the way now is a great time to explore the great outdoors and all the wonderful wildlife we have on our doorstep! Investigators get ready, we're going on a wildlife adventure to see how many different species we can find! Did you know, the number of different species in a particular place – whether it's your back garden, a park, field or woodland – is called its biodiversity (short for biological diversity). Some places, like tropical rainforests, have lots of biodiversity, which means there are lots of different species in that area. However, some areas that have very harsh living conditions, such as Antarctica, have low biodiversity because fewer species can survive the extreme conditions. One of the methods scientists use to measure biodiversity is called species richness, which is the total number of species discovered in a certain area.

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SPECIES BINGO!

How many different species can you find in your garden or favourite outdoor area? Use the bingo card on the next page to colour in each species you find. Have you found any creatures that aren't on our card? Snap a picture, make a drawing or build a replica with any material you like and let us see by tagging us on instagram @TechFestAberdeen.

PSSST...

Here's some hints on where to look for the different species.

Try peeking under large stones and logs to see what lives underneath!

The best time to find workms and slugs is just after the rain, can you think why?

Look in the cracks of tree bark and look closely at leaves to see what you can find!

Peer into long grass to see what is hiding there!

Remember to always be respectful of nature and make sure you don't hurt any of the creatures you find, or their habitats!

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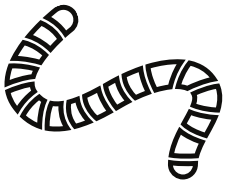
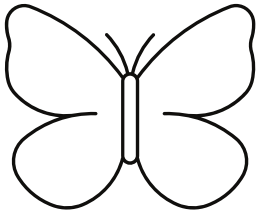
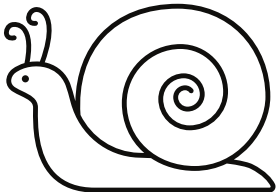
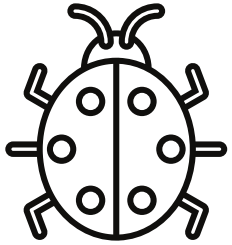
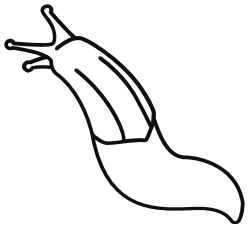
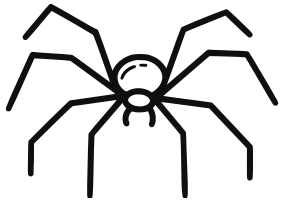
SPECIES BINGO!

HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND?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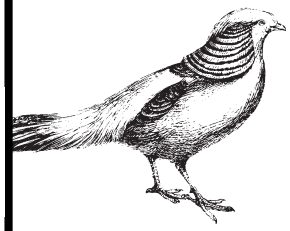
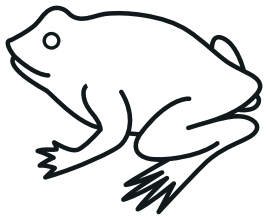
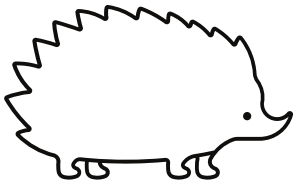
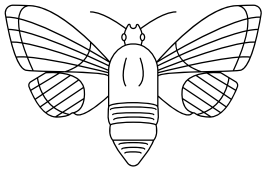
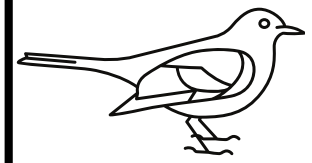
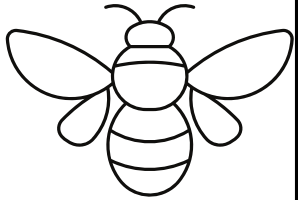
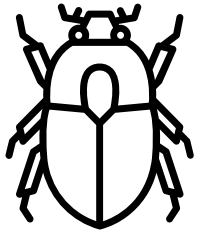
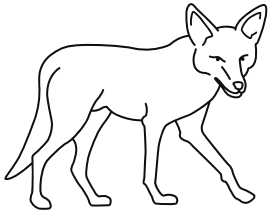
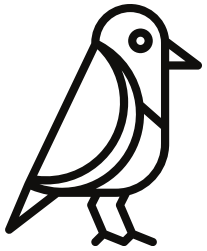
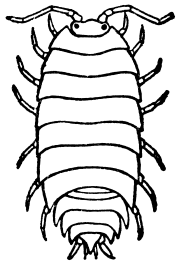
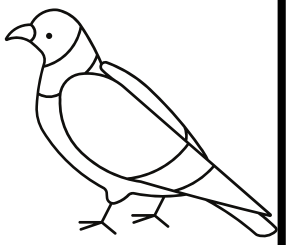
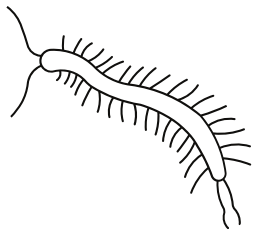
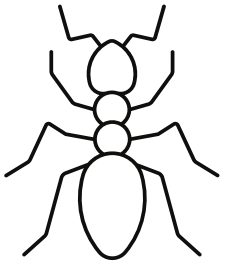
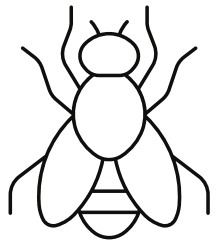
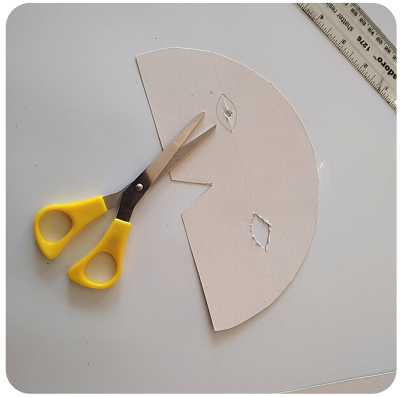
						
Pleasant Pheasant	Fantastic Frog	Happy Hedgehog	Marvellous Moth	Brilliant Blackbird	Bumbling Bee	Bashful Beetle
						
Fast Fox	Red-Breast Robin	Wonderful Woodlouse	Pesky Pigeon	Crawling Centipede	Amazing Ant	Frolicking Fly

MAKE A MASK OF YOUR FAVOURITE GARDEN ANIMAL

WATCH MARTHA MAKE ANIMAL MASKS BY VISITING OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

Did you manage to find lots of different species? Which one was your favourite? Follow the instructions below to make a mask and turn into your favourite garden animal!

1)Draw around a plate onto some card (an empty cereal box or something similar will work!) to create a circle. Draw a line through the centre of the circle to create a semi-circle, and carefully cut it out (ask an adult to help and be very careful with the scissors!).



2)Carefully cut out two eye holes and cut out a notch for your nose.

3)Punch a whole on either side of your mask and attach some string so you can wear your mask.

4)Now for the fun bit - get creative with your decorating! You could paint your mask or stick on scraps of paper or fabric. You could stick on extra bits to make ears or antenna. You could even use natural materials from your garden like leaves and twigs to decorate your mask!

Don't forget to share your favourite pics with us on Instagram @TechFestAberdeen!

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HOW TO INCREASE BIODIVERSITY IN YOUR AREA

We've investigated what biodiversity is and how to measure it, but why is it so important? Areas with high biodiversity are generally much more stable and have a healthier ecosystem (the ecosystem is the whole community of living things that live and interact in a specific place). Imagine if you had a forest with only one species of tree, for example oak trees. If there was suddenly an outbreak of disease that killed oak trees, not only would all the trees in that forest die, but all the animals that depend upon the oak trees for food or shelter would also be lost.

However, if you had a forest with lots of different species of trees, an outbreak of disease would still kill the oak trees, but there would be other types of trees to provide food and shelter to the other species in the ecosystem. So, having lots off different species in an ecosystem makes it more stable.

And the good news is, there are lots of things you can do to improve biodiversity in your area! You could plant flowers for pollinators to visit, make a "wild corner" in your garden to make a natural habitat, install some bat or bird boxes to create a cosy home or put out bird feeders/insect hotels.

WATCH KIRSTY MAKE BIRD SEED CAKES BY VISITING OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

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