What is Biodiversity?

SCIENCE SUBJECT: Life Science, Ecology, Biology

GRADE LEVEL: 6 - 12

SCIENCE CONCEPTS: Biodiversity

VOCABULARY: *biodiversity, ecosystems, migration, species, habitats, population, community, niche, biomes*

LESSON SUMMARY:

- Take Biodiversity IQ quiz
- Ecoregional Survey (how much do you know about where you live?)

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Define biodiversity, discuss facts and issues related to California biodiversity, and list reasons why biodiversity is important

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Readings: What is biodiversity?
What is an ecosystem?
What's the problem with patches?

ADVANCE PREPARATION:

PROCEDURE (see teacher's guides for instructions for each activity)

Biodiversity IQ Quiz

Have your students take the biodiversity quiz to learn about some of the tantalizing stranger-than-fiction tidbits that biodiversity has to offer. In the process, they'll become familiar with some important biodiversity basics.

Ecoregional Survey

In this part of the activity, your students will get a chance to complete an "ecoregional survey." It is designed to get them thinking about their local area, the plants and animals that live there, and some of the factors that may affect where and how plants and animals live in your region. Because some of the questions can require a good amount of research, Part I can be turned into a longterm project. Student groups can be assigned a particular set of questions or the entire survey to

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answer. Most of the answers can be obtained by using the resources listed in the "Resources" list but encourage the students to conduct other forms of research. Local nature centers, museums, libraries and the Internet can be great resources.

EXTENSIONS:

- Endangered Species Gallery Walk

STANDARDS:

National

Grades 5-8: Life Science
Populations and Ecosystems
Diversity and Adaptations of Organisms
Grades 9-12: Life Science
Interdependence of Organisms

California

Grades 9-12: Biology/Life Sciences
Ecology

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