

Ready Steady Bioblitz

A bioblitz is a great way to discover as many wild plants and animals as possible in a defined area over one day. You could do a bioblitz in your garden, among the pots on a patio, or in a ten-metre square at the park.



Discover more about the biodiversity of your local area, become a scientist for a day and record as many different plants and animals as you can find.

What you need

A roll of lining paper, double sided tape and glue, identification sheets or a suitable app (see link below), colouring pens, bug magnifier (optional).

What you do

- Decide where you want to explore. Make sure the area is not too big; a small garden is ideal.
- Roll out a long piece of lining paper onto dry ground.
- Stick double-sided tape along the paper in four lines.
- Label line 1 - plants, line 2 - mini beasts, line 3 - mammals, line 4 - birds.
- Go hunting!
- Pick a leaf or a petal and stick on your paper to represent each different plant species.
- Draw the mini beasts, mammals and birds you see. Look at minibeasts up close then put them back carefully.
- Look for evidence of species you can't see; e.g. chewed nuts, worm casts, empty snail shells, feathers, bird droppings or nibbled food. Record these too.
- How many different creatures and plants can you find?
- Do a bioblitz in other places; which one has the richest biodiversity, i.e. most different types of plants and animals?

SCIENCE*

- Ecological recording is collecting and interpreting information about our natural world so we can take appropriate action to protect threatened species and habitats. Learn more about recording your observations of wildlife [here](#).
- Biodiversity is the variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat or in the world.
- This activity is based on a well-recognised citizen science approach to wildlife surveying. See [here](#) further instructions on how to run your own.
- You can identify wildlife using the website www.ispot.org.uk, or an identification app such as Seek

*Click the hyperlinked texts for useful resources and additional information.

Safety tips

- Handle all living things with respect.
- Wash your hands after handling wild things.

