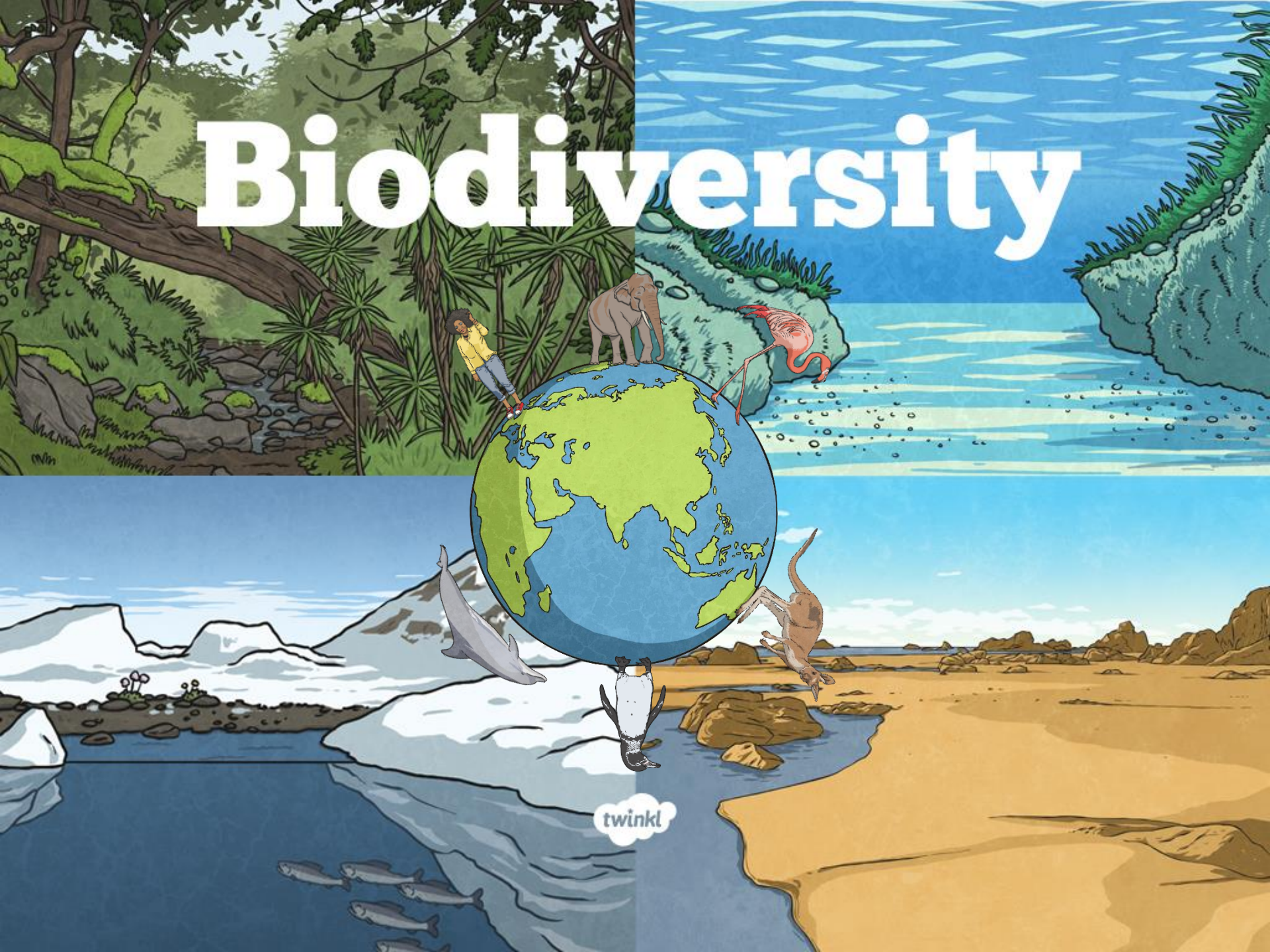
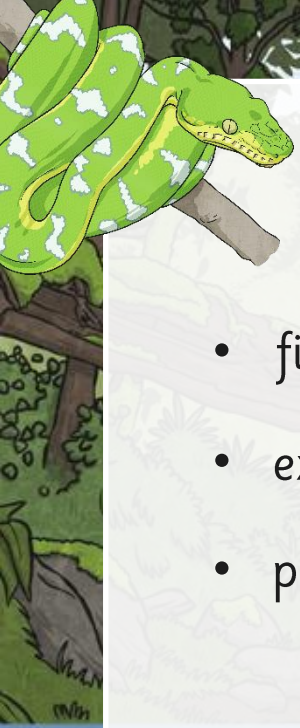


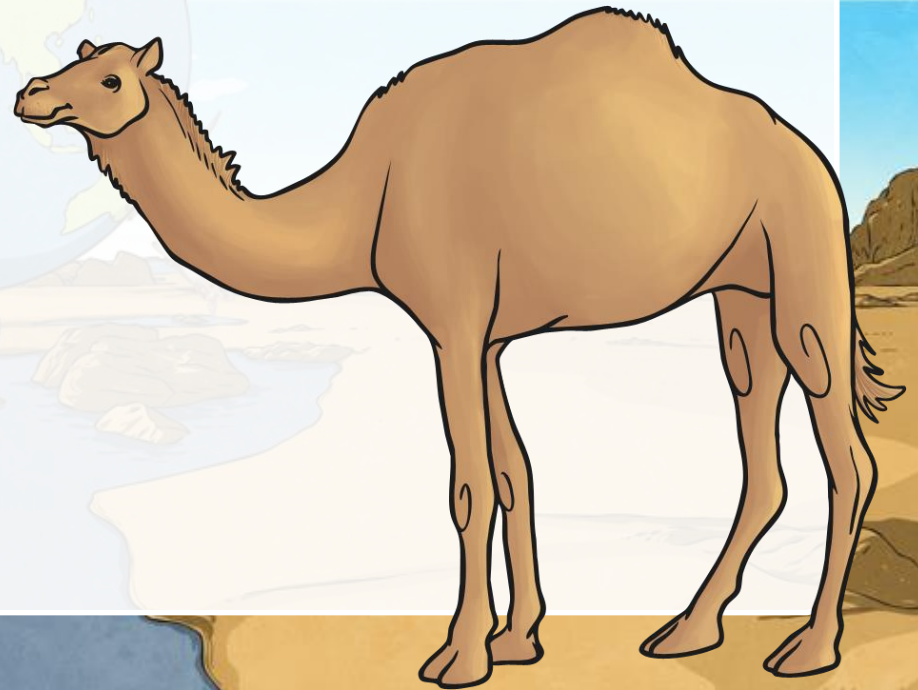
Biodiversity





You will...

- find out what biodiversity means and why it is important;
- explore environments rich in biodiversity;
- plan strategies to maintain biodiversity in our world.



Biodiversity...what is it?

Biodiversity comes from two words: bio which is short for biology (living things) and diversity (variety).

Biodiversity means the mixture of all life on earth.

It includes all the species, habitats and ecosystems (including humans) which exist on our planet.



Talk to your classmates:

What do species, habitats and ecosystems mean?

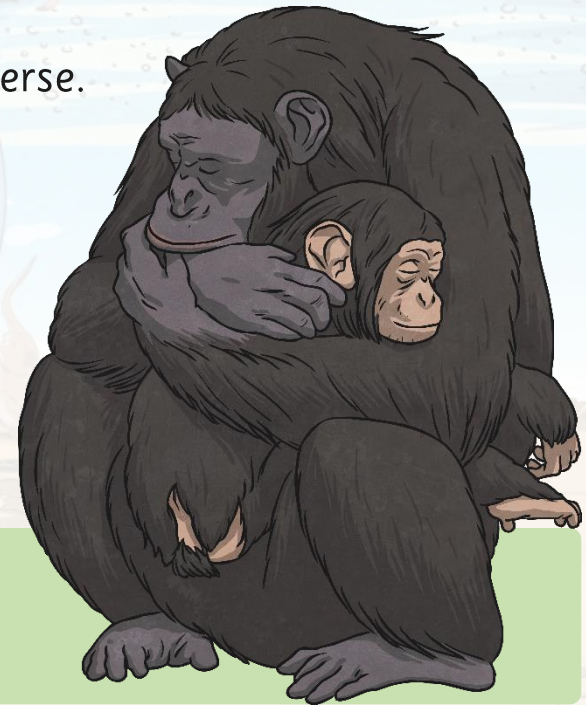
Which group would humans belong to, do you think?

Species

A group of living things that share the same characteristics. Living things from the same species can reproduce healthy offspring.

Examples include human beings, blue whales, chimpanzees, beech trees and black widow spiders.

The variety of species on earth is huge and very diverse.



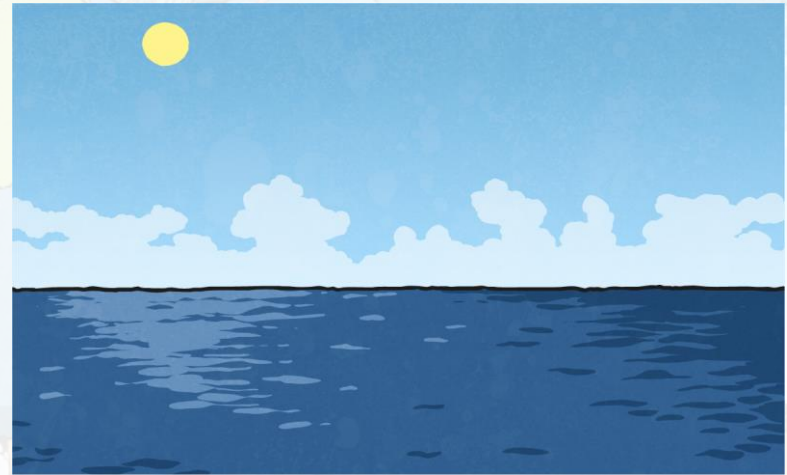
Generate ideas with your classmates:

How many species can you think of?

Habitat

The place where a living thing lives – its home. A habitat supports the life of the living thing.

Examples include bogs, forests, seas, hedgerows, grasslands and rainforests.



Compare your ideas with your classmates:

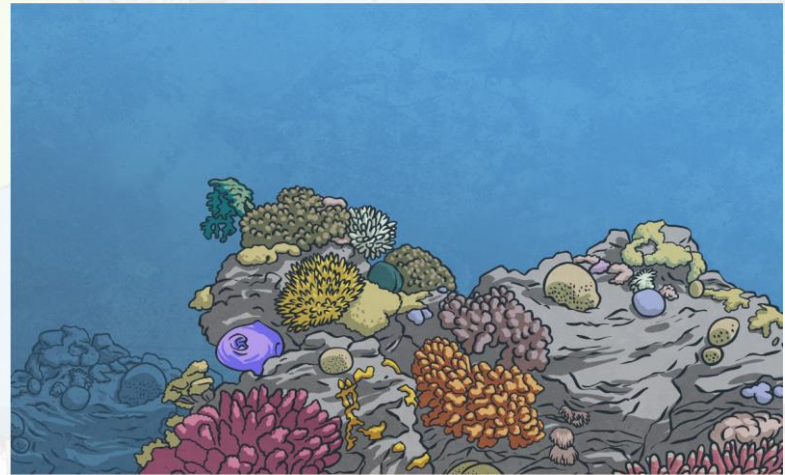
What habitat is nearest to you at the moment?

What living thing does the habitat support?

Ecosystem

A collection of living things that are different but can still exist together. These are communities of living things.

Examples include a forest canopy, rock pool, river, marsh, desert and coral reef.

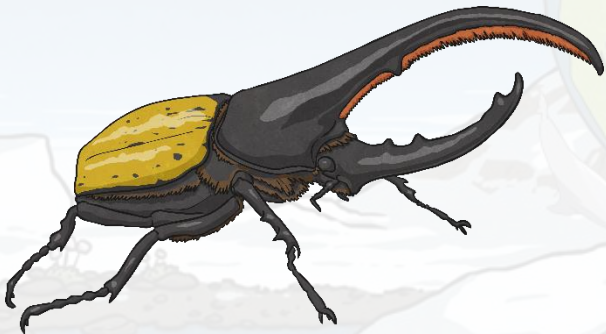


Draw with your classmates:

Pick an ecosystem, sketch it quickly and ask your classmate to tell you which ecosystem you have drawn. Label the ecosystem's parts.

Biodiversity is...

- all species, habitats and ecosystems on our planet;
- the mixture and balance of all living things;
- beautiful, fascinating, colourful, interesting and important.



Think with your classmates:

Think of five more adjectives to describe biodiversity.

Environments

There are many types of environment in our world that support species, habitats and ecosystems.

See if you can name the environments on the following slides.

Talk about the species, habitats and ecosystems that they may include and support.

Tundra



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Ice Cap



Photo courtesy of (mshipp@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence – attribution

Ocean



Photo courtesy of (mahinui@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence – attribution

Desert



Photo courtesy of (aigle_dore@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

Grassland



Photo courtesy of (fishhawk@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

Rainforest



Photo courtesy of (lubasi@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence – attribution

Mountains



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Forest



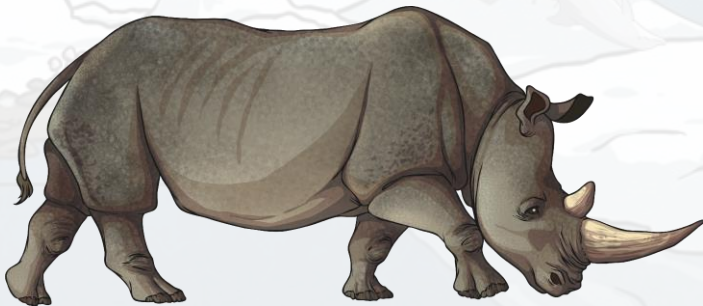
Urban



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Why is biodiversity important?

- Without biodiversity, there would be an imbalance in species, habitats and ecosystems on earth.
- Habitats must be protected so that species can live in them.
- Species must be protected so that they do not become endangered or extinct.
- Ecosystems must not be disturbed or they will not work together properly.





What can we do to help biodiversity on earth?

- We can protect habitats, species and ecosystems around us.
- We can make people aware of biodiversity and how important it is to all living things, including human beings.
- We can support organisations working to protect, preserve and conserve biodiversity in our world, e.g. World Wildlife Fund and Greenpeace.

Research with your classmates:

Find the meaning of **conservation** and **preservation** in your dictionary.



Do your bit...



Pick one of the following tasks to complete:

- Design a poster to make younger children/adults more aware of biodiversity in our world.
- Carry out an audit of the biodiversity around your school/home.
- Design a project based on an endangered species of your choice.
- Write a rap or poem about biodiversity.
- Make a to-do list of simple steps you could take to support and protect biodiversity in your locality.
- Prepare and perform a short presentation telling people about one of the dangers facing biodiversity in our world at present.

