



Why biodiversity matters: research and food webs

6th Class

Print and cut along the dashed lines. These carry the **text a group reads**: a job to do, a brief to research, or notes to identify by. Check the lesson's teacher notes for how many sets each group needs and how they are used: some lessons hand out one card per group, others sort or sequence a full set.

Card A: Why biodiversity matters

Biodiversity is the variety of living things in a place: plants, animals, fungi and tiny soil organisms. More kinds of living things usually means a healthier, more stable place. Biodiversity helps plants make seeds and fruit, gives animals food and shelter, and keeps soil and habitats healthier

Card B: Pollinators in Ireland

Pollinators move pollen so plants can make seeds and fruit. In Ireland they include honeybees, bumblebees, solitary bees, hoverflies, butterflies and moths. About one third of Ireland's wild bee species are threatened with extinction. Without enough pollinators, fewer wildflowers set seed and some foods become harder to grow

Card C: The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

This is a shared plan across the island of Ireland to help bees and other pollinators recover. Schools, councils, farmers and communities take simple actions: leave wildflower patches, cut some grass less often, plant pollinator-friendly flowers, and reduce pesticides where possible. Many small local actions add up. Your school grounds can be part of this national effort

Card D: Biology and ecosystems

Biology is the science of living things. Ecologists study how living things depend on each other and on their habitat. A food web shows who eats whom and how energy flows from the sun through plants to animals. If pollinators decline, plants, plant-eaters and predators can all feel the effect. Your class audit is the same kind of first step an ecologist takes before helping a site

Card E: From facts to action

Useful school-grounds actions: leave a corner unmown, plant pollinator-friendly flowers (such as clover or bird's-foot trefoil where suitable), build a simple bug hotel, or make a small log pile. The best action fits what you found in the audit. Few flowers means a pollinator patch may help. Many minibeasts under logs means that shelter is worth protecting. Choose one action the class can really do

