



# Vocabulary



**BIODIVERSITY (noun)**

All living things on Earth, how they depend on each other, and the ecosystems where they live.  
 Example: Millions of species, including humans, are part of Earth’s biodiversity.



**CLIMATE (noun)**

The average temperature and weather patterns in a place.  
 Example: Some places have a hot and humid climate.



**CONSUME (verb)**

To buy, use, eat, or drink something.  
 Example: Overconsumption happens when people consume too many resources and it hurts nature.



**ECOSYSTEM (noun)**

A group of living things that depend on each other and their environment.  
 Example: Insects in the rainforest ecosystem help break down fallen leaves to make new soil that helps trees grow.



**NATURAL RESOURCE (noun)**

Materials in nature that people can sell or use to create new products.  
 Example: Plants are a natural resource that people can use to make new medicines.



**PERSUADE (verb)**

To convince a person to think or do something.  
 Example: I tried to persuade my friend to join my chess team, but she likes the math team more.



**POPULATION (noun)**

The number of people or other living things in a place.  
 Example: The bee population in my city is growing because we planted more wildflowers.



**SURVEY (noun, verb)**

1. (noun) A list of questions created to learn about an issue.  
 Example: The students wrote a survey to research which movie was the most popular.
2. (verb) To collect information through observations or a list of questions.  
 Example: The students surveyed friends to find out which movie was the most popular.



## VOCABULARY CHALLENGE

Choose the vocabulary word above that best fits in each blank. It is okay to change the end of the word so that the sentence makes sense.

The world’s \_\_\_\_\_ is growing, and many people do not \_\_\_\_\_ Earth’s \_\_\_\_\_ in a sustainable way. This contributes to \_\_\_\_\_ change and impacts global \_\_\_\_\_. We can \_\_\_\_\_ people in our community to learn how we can \_\_\_\_\_ them to protect our natural world and its many different \_\_\_\_\_.



### 3 Local Solutions with Global Impact

Earth's living things depend on each other and on specific environments to survive. If **biodiversity** is healthy in one place, it helps biodiversity everywhere. We all need to protect nature and use **natural resources** in sustainable ways because our choices impact our lives and the lives of others around the globe. How can you protect local biodiversity to help global biodiversity?

#### Conserve Ecosystems

Many cities have laws to protect **ecosystems** from pollution and human activities like construction. These protected spaces are often called nature reserves or sanctuaries. Cities and scientists can work together to keep the ecosystem healthy and teach people how to help.



Nature reserve sign in the United Kingdom  
© Ian Capper CC BY-SA 2.0

#### Restore Habitats

People can rebuild or create new habitats for the living things whose ecosystems are damaged or lost. Trees, insect hotels, and bat houses provide homes for animals. Bird feeders, gardens, and ponds provide food and water. People can also clean up polluted habitats like beaches and parks.



Insect hotel in Zaragoza, Spain  
© SimónK CC BY-SA 4.0

#### Raise Awareness

You can share your knowledge about biodiversity issues, **climate change**, and solutions to **persuade** others to take action. Meet with local leaders, present information at a community event, or show others how to take action by doing it in your own life.



16-year-old Greta Thunberg from Sweden speaks to leaders in Europe about climate change and the need for action.  
© European Parliament CC BY-SA 2.0

### Know the Difference: Fact or Opinion

Analyze what you hear and read to decide if it is a fact or an opinion. Sometimes people state opinions as if they are facts. Make sure your source is reliable and always look for evidence.

**FACT:** Facts use numbers, eyewitnesses, photographs, or scientific information to show they are true.

Example: He posted 3 pictures of cats today.

**OPINION:** Opinions are based on feelings, beliefs, and ideas. Opinions often use words like good, bad, best, worst, always, or never.

Example: He posts the best cat pictures.



**What other ways can you know the difference between fact and opinion? Why do you think that?**



# Research: Solutions to Biodiversity Issues



Use the questions below to do online research or to interview someone who works with flora or fauna in your city. Learn about local **biodiversity** issues. Identify solutions you can share with your international peers. Collect pictures online or take photos during your interview to post in the e-classroom.



**Cite your sources. How did you get your information?**

- 1. How do you work with flora or fauna in our city?** (For online research: How do you know this a reliable source?)
- 2. What is unique about biodiversity in our city?**
- 3. How does **climate** change impact biodiversity in our city?**
- 4. What are people in our city already doing to help address biodiversity issues?**
- 5. What else can people do locally to address biodiversity issues in our city and around the world?**
- 6. What else are you curious about? Write your own questions.**