



Rewilding





Learning Outcomes

- Define rewilding
- Discover connections between biodiversity and climate
- Understand how biodiversity benefits ecosystems and communities
- Examine ways to positively impact local biodiversity





Agenda

- Defining biodiversity and rewilding.
- Participate in a BioBlitz
- Think of possible ways to positively impact local biodiversity





What is biodiversity?

Definition: Biodiversity is all the different kinds of life you'll find in one area - animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms

Role: Biodiversity keeps ecosystems stable and resilient, supporting food, water, clean air, medicine, and protection from natural disasters

Human Pressure: Habitat loss, climate change, pollution, and resource extraction are driving steep declines in wildlife and ecosystem health

Restoring Balance: Protecting habitats, easing resource pressure, and supporting indigenous and local stewardship can rebuild biodiversity to sustain people and nature





Defining Rewilding

- The process of restoring and protecting natural ecosystems, and allowing them to develop and function without human intervention
- It can include the reintroduction of native species, the removal of non-native species, and the protection of natural processes such as fire and flooding
- The goal is to create self-sustaining ecosystem that can support biodiversity
- Rewilding can come in many different forms





Examples of Rewilding

Rewilding can come in many different forms!

- Removal of invasive species from a meadow
- Planting native vegetation in a window box
- Reintroducing beavers to a watershed where they once lived but were extirpated (locally extinct)
- Removal of abandoned human development to allow native species to take over
- Creating a “pollinator garden”, a small outdoor garden with native species that pollinators need





Defining Biodiversity and Rewilding

Discussion questions:

- How does rewilding relate to biodiversity?
- What are ways we can be involved in protecting biodiversity?



BioBlitz

- You are going to participate in a BioBlitz!
 - Get into groups, go outside, and explore the biodiversity of our community
 - Try to observe as many different species of life as possible- including animals, plants, and fungi
 - Record the different species we find by writing them down
 - Tally how many species we find throughout the BioBlitz activity
 - Write down as specifically as you can what the species is, i.e. “bird”, or “grass”, but correctly identifying the type of species is not essential for today
 - You can make up names for the different species if you don’t know them. For example, if you’re looking at three different species of moss, you could call them “rock moss,” “troll moss,” and “fuzzy moss”
- By doing this, you are collecting data about the biodiversity in this region, which is something other scientists and naturalists are interested in. This type of activity, in which anyone can collect data to share with the wider scientific community, is called “**citizen science**”
- Citizen science is an excellent way to participate in the scientific process of observing, collecting data, and then sharing that data





BioBlitz Reflection

- How does participating in a BioBlitz help biodiversity in our community?
- What other ways could we positively impact biodiversity in our community?





Additional Resources

- [Why is biodiversity important - with Sir David Attenborough | The Royal Society:](#) David Attenborough explains why biodiversity is so important to humans, how biodiversity loss is impacting our world and how there is still time to change direction
- [Rewilding – What are the benefits?:](#) University of Sussex - Hear what benefits young people think rewilding delivers. It varies from helping to restore biodiversity to helping us have a better relationship with nature.
- [50 Years Ago, This Was a Wasteland. He Changed Everything | Short Film Showcase:](#) National Geographic - Bamberger's model of land stewardship is now being replicated across the region and he is considered to be a visionary in land management and water conservation.
- [WWF's 2022 Living Planet Report:](#) World Wildlife Fund - The 2022 Living Planet Report is a comprehensive study of trends in global biodiversity and the health of the planet.
- [What is a BioBlitz? #nhmla #Community #Science:](#) National History Museum of LA - Watch as NHM's Community Science team kicked off the 2023 City Nature Challenge with a BioBlitz in Whittier, California.





Contributors

Walking Softer would like to thank Mackenzie Feldman and Sheina Crystal of Re:Wild Your Campus, and Morgan Graham for contributing to the rewilding learning materials.



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