



BIODIVERSITY LIFE AROUND ME

An Activity Guide for Parents/ Caregivers
and Young Children



#GlobalActionDays #MyActionsMatter
April 20-30, 2022

We support the



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030



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SCAN ME



Young Reporters
for the environment



Eco-Schools



LEARNING
ABOUT
FORESTS

READY, SET, ACTION!

Welcome parents, guardians, and all those interested in engaging in Global Action Days 2022 with young children!

We invite you to use this resource to make the five steps for biodiversity accessible, understandable, and most of all fun!

The purpose of this activity guide is to support investigation, learning, and positive experiences with children aged 3-6. You'll find activities, supporting questions, and spaces for drawing findings for the 5 actions for biodiversity.

As children learn best through play and modelling, doing these actions together will enrich the deep learning experience. Our hope is that these shared actions will reinforce children's strong bonds both with the people and natural world around them.

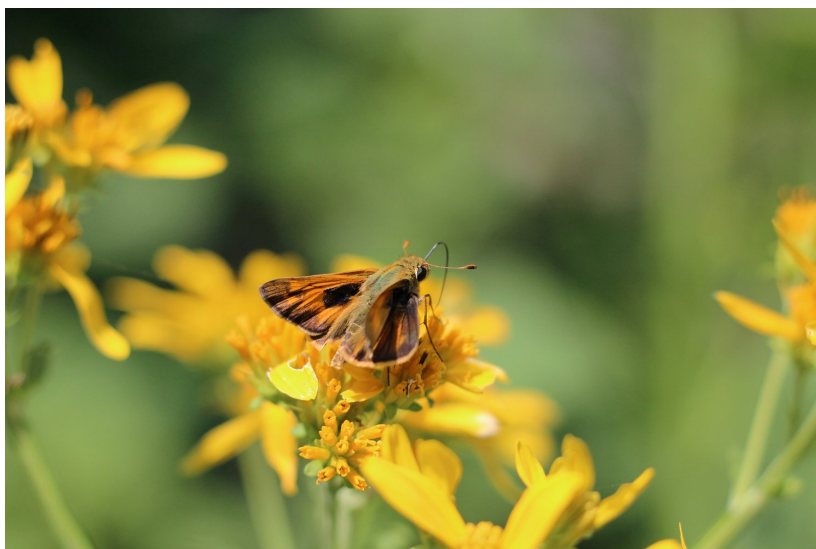
A sustainable future starts in the smallest of hands. Join in to help your little ones become the leaders of today.

Take photos of your fun activities and share them on



Use the hashtags

**#GLOBALACTIONDAYS, #MYACTIONSMATTER, #GAIA2030,
#GENERATIONRESTORATION & #LITTERLESSCAMPAIGN**



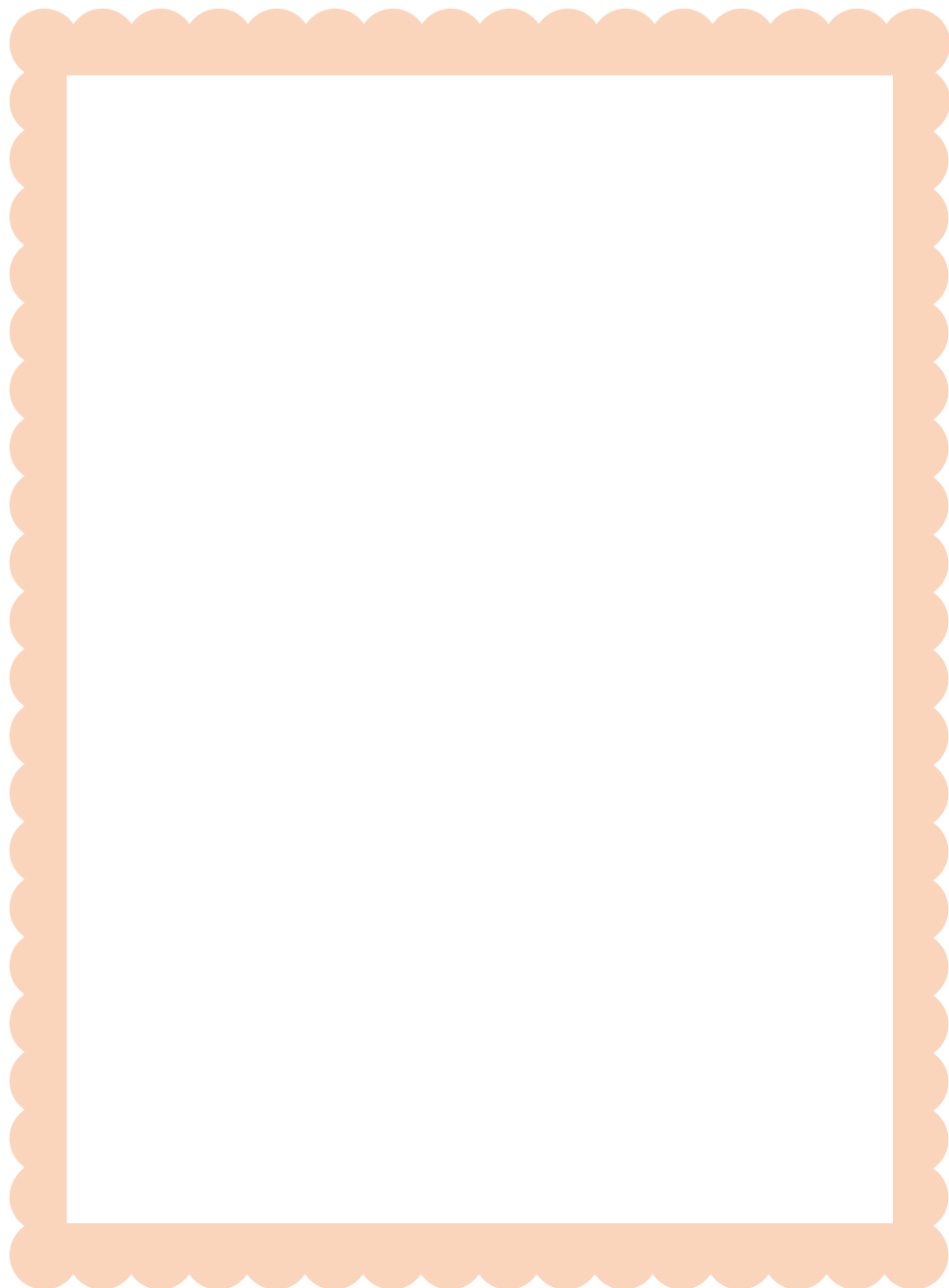
Name _____

Date _____

PAINTING OUTDOORS

Bring some watercolor paints, brushes, paper, and something hard to paint on along with you outdoors.

After taking a few moments to be present in your surroundings with eyes closed, encourage children to open their eyes and paint the very first thing they see. Allow them to take their time and be inspired by their surroundings. Paint as many still life paintings as desired 😊



Name _____ Date _____



1: DIP INTO NATURE

A little greenspace, park, garden, forest, field, or beach--wherever you are the outdoor environment has so much to offer and experience! Encourage children to experience outdoors using all their senses:

1. Take a walk outside together for at least 10 minutes.
2. Find a good place to sit or stand and close your eyes for about 30 seconds.
3. Be still for a moment and encourage children to relax, breathe, and be present in the surroundings together.
 - What sounds do you hear?
 - What smells can you smell?
 - What can you feel?
4. Open your eyes and look around for a flower, plant, bird, or insect that you find beautiful or interesting. Stay still and observe it closely (under adult guidance for poisonous plants, fungi, or animals).

Guiding questions:

- How does being outdoors close nature make you feel?
- Did you enjoy it or find it relaxing?
- What do you like most about our nature dip?
- What colors did you see?

Take photos together of your favorite sights from the Nature Dip and share them with others using the **hashtags** listed in the section Ready, Set, Action!

The **Sensory Wheels** below can be used as tools to help children use their senses with intention to relate with nature.

Name _____

Date _____



WHAT DO YOU FEEL?

Use your sense of **touch** outdoors . You can cut this wheel out and glue it on cardboard. Use a paper clip or clothespin to mark off each finding.



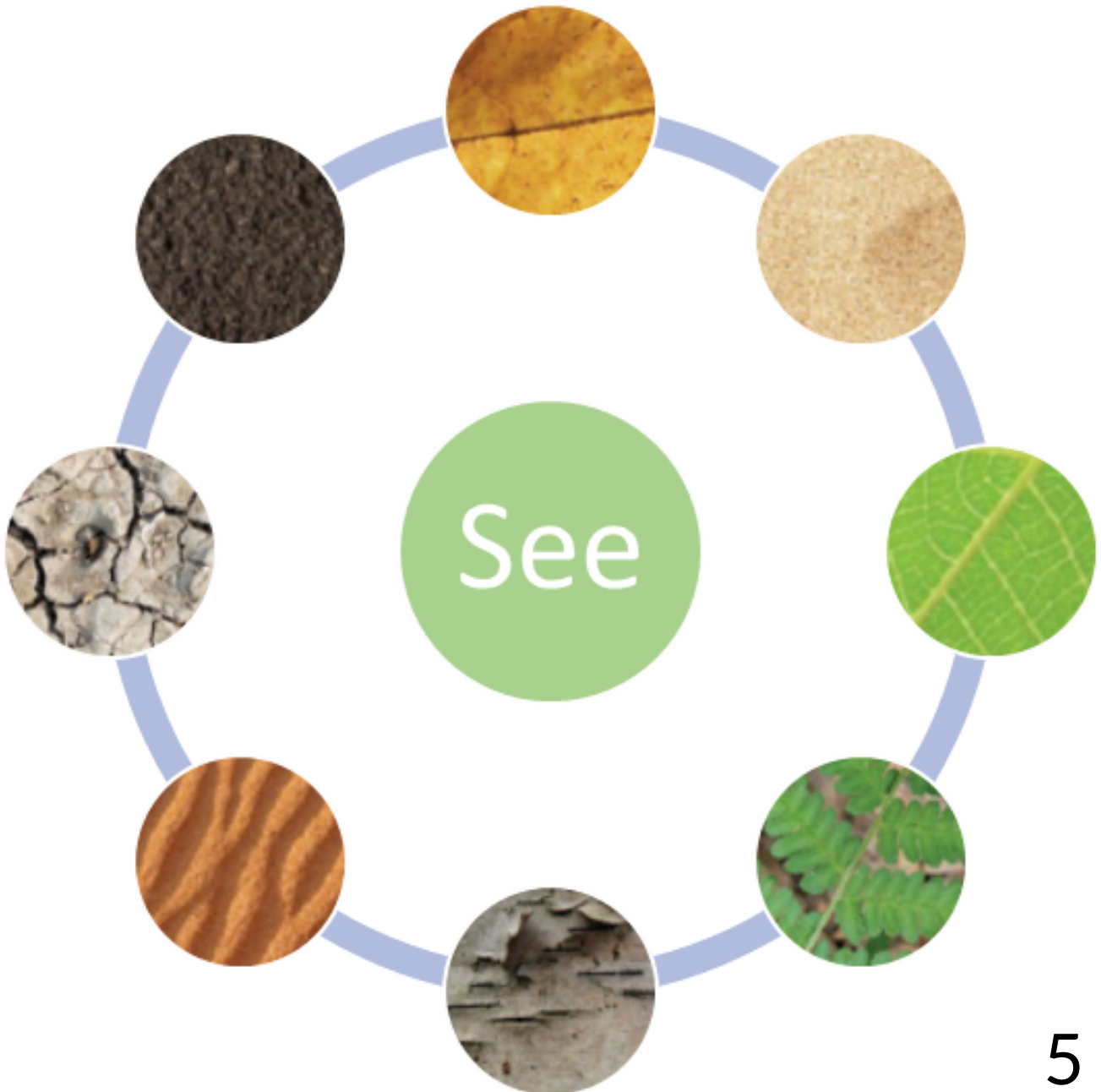
Name _____

Date _____



WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Use your sense of **sight** outdoors . You can cut this wheel out and glue it to cardboard. Use a paper clip or clothespin to mark off each.



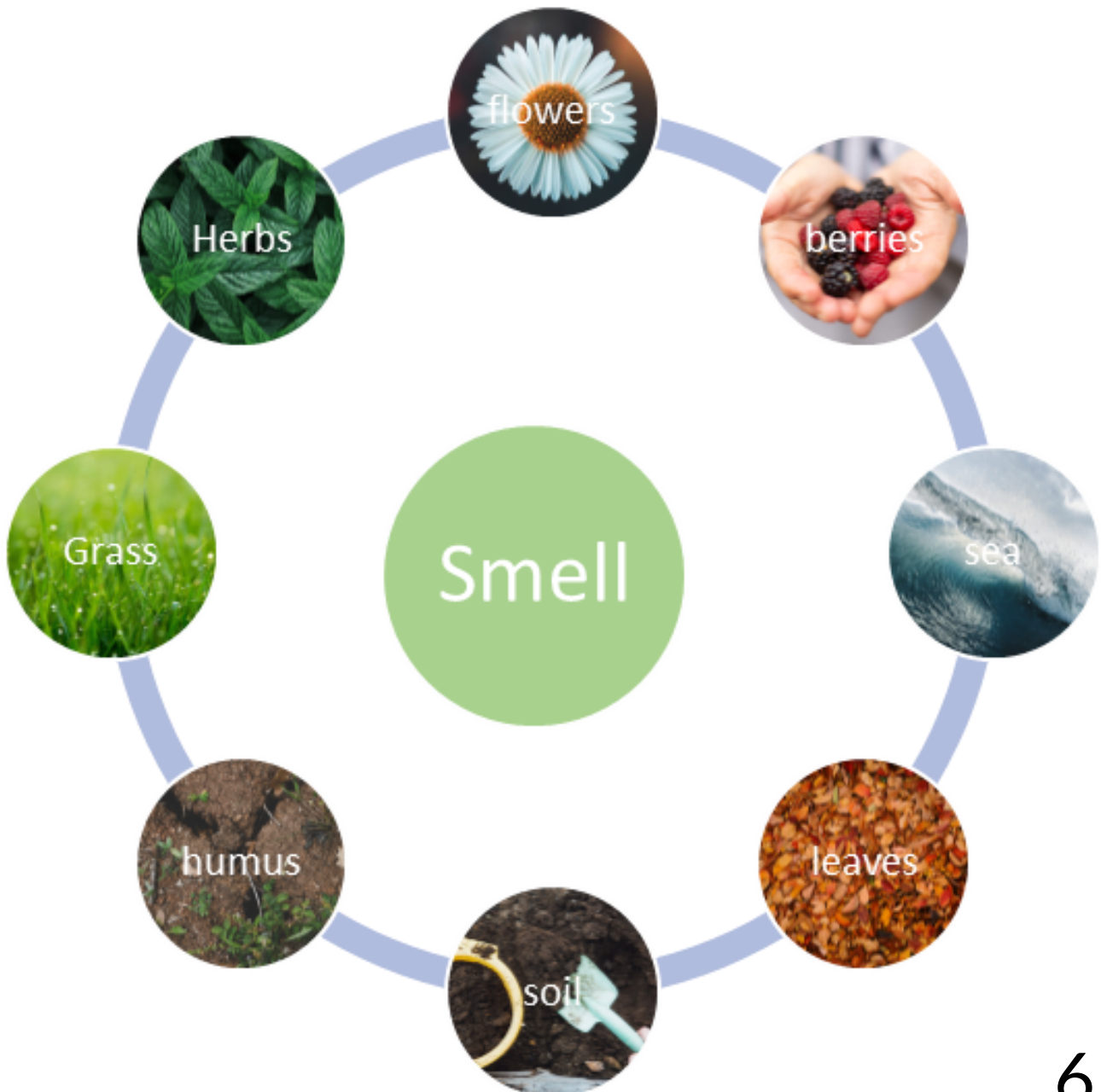
Name _____

Date _____



WHAT DO YOU SMELL?

Use your sense of **smell** outdoors . You can cut this wheel out and glue it to cardboard. Use a paper clip or clothespin to mark off each.



Name _____

Date _____



WHAT DO YOU HEAR?

What can you **hear** outdoors? You can cut this wheel out and glue it to cardboard. Use a paper clip or clothespin to mark off each.



Name _____

Date _____

NATURE COLLAGE

Can you create a picture using only natural resources? Collect some **treasures** outdoors (sticks, pinecones, leaves, rocks, etc.). Remember not to pluck things from living plants :) Find a flat surface and create a picture using your treasures.



Name _____ Date _____



I HEAR NATURE ALL AROUND ME

When on your nature walk, encourage children to close their eyes and use only their ears to experience nature around them. Try recording a clip of the sounds outdoors so you can listen to it together again later. You can use the **Birdnet** app to record a bird's song and learn more!

Draw some things in and around the ear below that you heard!



Name _____

Date _____



THE BEST DAY EVER

Have fun with this Adlib activity! Ask children for words to fill in the story below. Encourage them to use names of plants, animals, weather, etc. experienced outdoors on your Nature Dip!

One day I woke up feeling _____ (Emotion), and I knew it was going to be a special day! The sky was _____ (Color) and the weather was _____ (Weather). I jumped out of bed, and put on my _____ (Article of clothing). I opened the door and breathed in deep. The air smelled like _____ (adjective), and I was ready to _____ (Action Verb). I had _____ (favorite fruit or veg) for breakfast. It tasted so _____ (Adjective). Outside, I touched the _____ adjective _____ outdoor object (noun) smiling and said it feels like _____ (something soft, noun). Then I heard a(n) _____ (animal) _____ (action verb) around the _____ (place outdoors). I walked past a _____ (body of water) the color of _____ (plant or flower), and I thought to myself, what a(n) _____ (adjective) world! Next, I saw a(n) _____ (type of bird) sitting in a _____ (tree or bush) singing _____ (favorite song). I sat down in the _____ (outdoor place) and admired the _____ (favorite thing from nature dip). Finally, I went back home. I fed the _____ (Animals) and watered the _____ (plants) then sat down on the _____ (Piece of furniture), and thought, what a(n) _____ (Adjective) day!"

Name _____ Date _____



2: BE A NATURE DETECTIVE

A key part of learning about biodiversity includes observing the **indigenous or local flora and fauna**. Native species are species that have naturally evolved in a specific area. They have been growing there naturally for hundreds or thousands of years.

Outdoors we can guide children to engage in searching for living things around them. Naming the flora and fauna around is not only educational but also helps develop a sense of belonging and stewardship. You can encourage creativity and fun with little ones by allowing them to give an additional nickname for the living things observed.

Some useful apps for naming local flora and fauna are:

Plantnet, iNaturalist, eBird

Guiding Questions:

How is our outdoor environment different/same to (use a context the child may have visited, seen in a video, or book)? Ex: Forest in Finland compared to beach in Spain.

Which plants can we find outdoors?

Which fruits and vegetables grow in the wild?

Which animals live in the wild?

Which things may be planted and grow well?

Which things cannot grow here?

Which living things can/ could not survive, grow, live, find food, etc. in the local environment?

Using own knowledge and the help of the nature identification apps mentioned in the previous section you can help children discover native species.

Name _____ Date _____

CAN YOU FIND A: BIRD

Local Name:

Nickname:

Draw a picture of your findings.

Name _____ Date _____

CAN YOU FIND A: TREE

Local Name:

Nickname:

Draw a picture of your findings.

Name _____ Date _____

CAN YOU FIND A: WILDFLOWER

Local Name:

Nickname:

Draw a picture of your findings.

Name _____ Date _____

CAN YOU FIND A: BUSH OR SHRUB

Local Name:

Nickname:

Draw a picture of your findings.

Name _____ Date _____

CAN YOU FIND AN: INSECT

Local Name:

Nickname:

Draw a picture of your findings.

Name _____ Date _____

CAN YOU FIND A: FURRY ANIMAL

Local Name:

Nickname:

Draw a picture of your findings.

Name _____ Date _____

CAN YOU FIND AN: ANIMAL WITH A SHELL

Local Name:

Nickname:

Draw a picture of your findings.

Name _____ Date _____

CAN YOU FIND AN: ANIMAL THAT LIVES IN WATER

Local Name:

Nickname:

Draw a picture of your findings.

Name _____

Date _____



GO ON A COLOR SEARCH

Use the **SDG color wheel** on the next page to go on a Rainbow search.

Encourage children to investigate the colors in the biodiversity outdoors to match as many color categories as possible.

Can you find at least one living thing (plant, fungi, animal, bird) in your outdoor environment that matches the colors above?

Remember not to pick leaves and flowers off plants unnecessarily.

Take photos, make a checklist, or attach clothespins to the SDG color wheel to document your findings!

Share them with others using the hashtags :)

Name _____

Date _____



Name _____

Date _____



NATIVE SPECIES AND ME: A SIHLOUETTE COLLAGE

Every experience and interaction children have with the natural world, is an opportunity to reinforce the idea: I am a part of nature.

In this extension activity, children can make a collage of the biodiversity discovered with photos taken so far within the shape of their own silhouette.

You can draw your child's silhouette by tracing the shadow of their head onto a paper or use a photo transferred to the computer as done in this [TUTORIAL](#).



Photo credit: A. Heumann Kaya

Name _____

Date _____



3: LEARN ABOUT LIFE AT RISK

Young children are naturally great at asking questions. Often, they'll find answers to questions that we haven't even thought to ask yet. With adult guidance children can investigate which endangered and threatened species are in their local area.

If you do not know which endangered or threatened species there are in your area, you can have a look [here](#).

Endangered species may be at risk due to factors such as habitat loss, poaching, invasive species, pollution, or climate change. You can extend learning with a good audiobook like this [one](#).

Guiding Questions:

Why do you think this animal/plant is in danger?

What do you think we can do to help it from this danger?

Now that we've learned about this species in danger how can we let other people know?

What would you like to tell your friends about this species at risk?

ACTION: Can you make a...

Song

Poster

Drawing

Poem

Collage

Dance

Video

Mask



Don't forget to share your creation using the hashtags!

Name _____

Date _____



4: LABELS TO LOOK FOR

1. Take a look around the kitchen with your child and see how many environmental labels you can find. Use the **chart** on the next page to keep track.
2. You might find labels such as the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSP), Rainforest Alliance Certified, or the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). What others can you find? **Add** any label you find that's not already listed in the chart. Are some specific to your country?
3. Can you find products with these labels in other rooms in the house?
4. Use the tick chart on the next page to track how many time you spot each environmental label. Use the blank rows to add in other labels.
5. Next time you are in the **supermarket**, take the chart with you and investigate with your child Are you willing to buy a product with an environmental label even if it is more expensive?
6. Do a little research on what it stands for – how does it help **protect nature and biodiversity**?
7. Take a picture of an environmental label and **share** it with the hashtags. In the caption, write one sentence together with your child about how this label helps support biodiversity.







Name _____

Date _____



ENVIRONMENTAL LABEL CHART

ADD A TICK EACH TIME YOU SEE ONE

Eco-label	Tick each time you see it	Where?
	I	
		
		
		
		
		

Name _____

Date _____



5: HAVE A GREEN PARTY!

It's time to Celebrate Global Action Days

2022! Plan a party with the children.

Guiding questions:

1. What would a Green party for biodiversity look like to you?
2. How can we make an eco-friendly party?
3. What you they learned new so far?
4. What was your favorite part/ action?

Green Party Ideas:

- Wear green, but buy nothing new. (You could borrow something if you don't have anything green.)
- Celebrate outdoors!
- Make your garden more biodiversity friendly.
- Do a trash clean-up and beautify a nearby space.
- Make seed bombs with friends.
- Hold an endangered animal mask workshop.
- Make bird feeders from recycled materials and hang them outside
- Set up a water station for pollinators.
- Try to 'eat a rainbow' of yummy, healthy, biodiverse, and sustainable foods.
- **Share** your celebration using the hashtags!

#GlobalActionDays

#GenerationRestoration



#MyActionsMatter



#Gaia2030

Photo credit: A. Heumann Kaya

#LitterLessCampaign



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