

STAY HOME

with  SHEDD AQUARIUM



Zoom in on Backyard Diversity!



If you look closely, you can find many different plants and animals that live right in your neighborhood. All the species in a place make up its biodiversity. How much biodiversity can you find in your neighborhood?

To explore the biodiversity of your neighborhood, with the help of an adult, you will create your own set of “biodiversity binoculars” to focus your attention. You will also get a Bingo card to take with you on your neighborhood adventure to record your observations.

Activities for youths (grades K–5) on pages 2–4. >

Activities for teens (grades 6–12) on page 5–6. >



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YOUTH ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS



MATERIALS

- **1 toilet paper tube**
- **Scissors**
- **Marker cap, lip balm cap, or other small item about ½-inch across**
- **Tape**
- **3 feet of string, yarn, or ribbon**
- **Decorations**—use markers, stickers and/or watercolors and get creative!

Step 1:

Cut your toilet paper tube in half.



Step 2:

Tape the cap to the side of one of the tubes.



Step 3:

Place the tubes next to each other so the cap is in the middle and wrap tape all the way around both tubes.





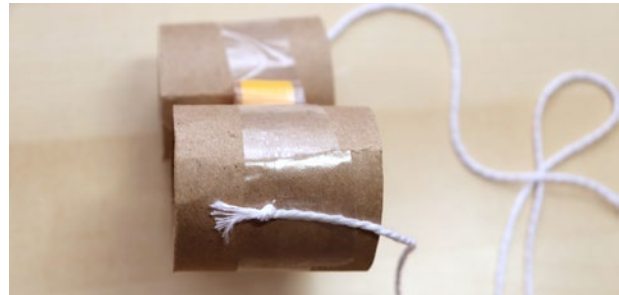
STAY HOME WITH SHEDD • YOUTH ACTIVITY

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YOUTH ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS CONTINUED

Step 4:

Tie a knot on each end of the string and tape the ends to the outside of the binoculars.



Step 5 (optional):

Decorate your binoculars.



Step 6:

Open your Biodiversity Bingo card on your mobile device or print it out to start exploring your neighborhood biodiversity!



SHARE WITH US!

Share your completed Bingo card with Shedd Aquarium on social media
@SheddLearning and **@HitPlayChicago** using hashtags **#StayHomeHitPlay** and **#EarthMonthIn**.



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BIODIVERSITY BINGO

Open your Biodiversity Bingo card on your mobile device or print it out to start exploring your neighborhood biodiversity!

ANT	BIRD FLYING	TREE	ANIMAL TRACKS	YELLOW FLOWER
GRASS	DANDELION	A PLANT WITH LEAVES	WORM	CAT
SQUIRREL	BEE	 <p>FREE</p>	BIRD ON THE GROUND	LISTEN FOR A BIRD CALL
SPIDER OR SPIDERWEB	DOG	FUNGUS	SOMETHING SMALLER THAN YOUR FOOT	PURPLE FLOWER
SOMETHING TALLER THAN YOU	A HOLE IN A TREE	BERRIES	BUTTERFLY	SOMETHING GREEN



STAY HOME WITH SHEDD • TEEN ACTIVITY

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TEEN ACTIVITIES

If you look closely, you can find many different plants and animals that live right in your neighborhood. **Create a nature journal** that captures the biodiversity in your neighborhood. You can organize it any way you wish. Draw what you see, write detailed descriptions, or snap photos and caption them. You'll likely see birds and trees, but don't forget about the small things too. Try to find things like an insect, a fungus, a flower, or different grasses.

Hone your observation skills and take a 1-foot hike! Mark off a square piece of green space (on the tree lawn, in your backyard, in a park). Look at your square for 10 seconds. Look away and write down all the adjectives you can think of that describe what's in your square. Observe your square again for 30 seconds. Can you add more adjectives to the list? Observe once more for a minute. Did you see anything new? Often when we look at an object for a longer period, we can see and appreciate additional details.

Be a birder! Observe a bird or birds for 10 minutes. Fill out the observation sheet on page 6. After your observations, use the Merlin app, a field guide, or the internet to identify your bird.

SHARE WITH US!

Share your completed activities with Shedd Aquarium on social media @SheddLearning and @HitPlayChicago using hashtags #StayHomeHitPlay and #EarthMonthIn.



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HOW DO I IDENTIFY A BIRD?

- Find a bird and watch it (or other birds you see) for ten minutes.
- Record your observations below.
- Afterwards, use an app or field guide to ID your bird and write its name below.

BASICS

Observation date: _____

What size is the bird? (circle)

small medium large

What are the main colors?

BEHAVIORS

I saw my bird (check all that apply):

- Eating at a feeder
- Swimming
- Flying
- Running/walking on the ground
- Sitting in a tree

Other _____

Other _____

DRAW YOUR BIRD

HABITAT Describe the environment:

I'VE IDENTIFIED IT!

My bird is a _____