

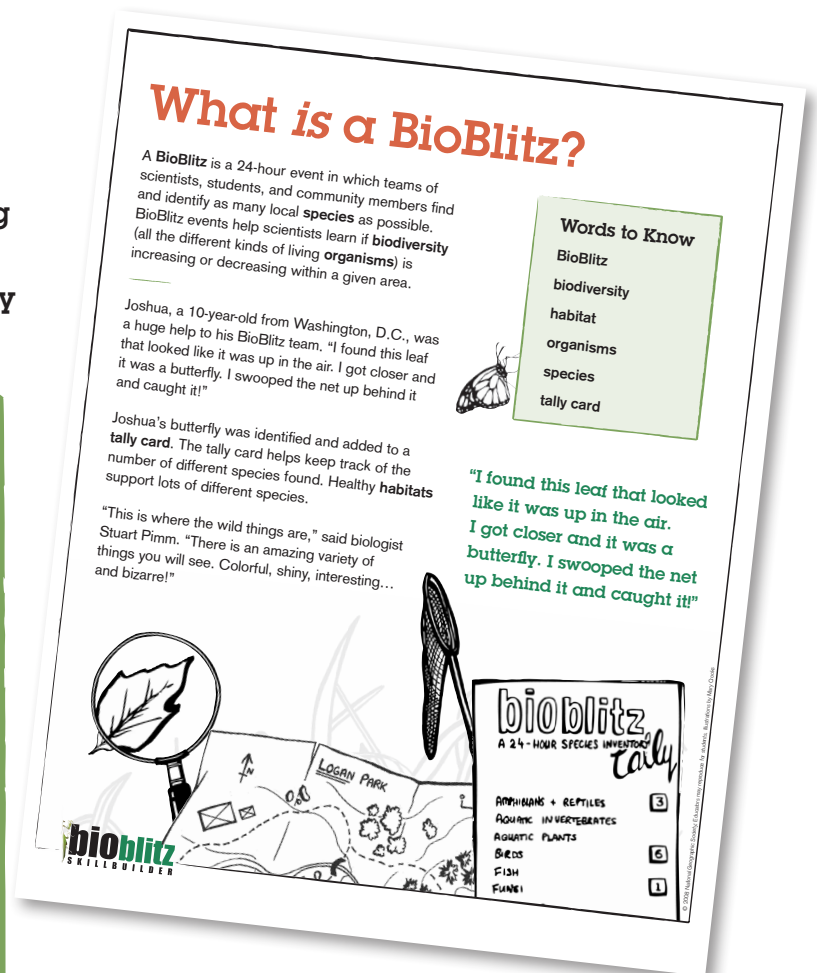
What is a BioBlitz?

Preview

Students learn that BioBlitz events are held to conduct a species inventory of a specific area and that this work is valuable to understanding an area's biodiversity. They read about a boy who discovers a butterfly and how his discovery is added to a tally card.

Words to Know

BioBlitz	an event in which people find and identify as many local species as possible
biodiversity	all the different kinds of living organisms within a given area
habitat	the environment where an organism lives
organisms	living things such as plants, animals, fungi, or bacteria
species	a group of similar organisms within the same population that can reproduce with each other
tally card	records the number of species found and identified during a BioBlitz



Try It!

Students produce an announcement for a BioBlitz event.

✓ Have students **write** an announcement about an upcoming BioBlitz event to submit to a local or school newspaper.

Option: Some students might want to create a flyer or poster about the event, incorporating maps, drawings, photographs, and illustrations. **Materials:** Pens, markers, crayons, paper, or poster board.

✓ **Start** by asking, "What should people know about this event?" Brainstorm or discuss with students information that would be helpful (or necessary) to include such as:

- General information about BioBlitz events—what they are, why they're important, who can participate, etc.
- Specific details about an upcoming event—date, time, location, and contact information, etc.

What is a BioBlitz?

A **BioBlitz** is a 24-hour event in which teams of scientists, students, and community members find and identify as many local **species** as possible. BioBlitz events help scientists learn if **biodiversity** (all the different kinds of living **organisms**) is increasing or decreasing within a given area.

Joshua, a 10-year-old from Washington, D.C., was a huge help to his BioBlitz team. "I found this leaf that looked like it was up in the air. I got closer and it was a butterfly. I swooped the net up behind it and caught it!"

Joshua's butterfly was identified and added to a **tally card**. The tally card helps keep track of the number of different species found. Healthy **habitats** support lots of different species.

"This is where the wild things are," said biologist Stuart Pimm. "There is an amazing variety of things you will see. Colorful, shiny, interesting... and bizarre!"

Words to Know

BioBlitz

biodiversity

habitat

organisms

species

tally card



"I found this leaf that looked like it was up in the air. I got closer and it was a butterfly. I swooped the net up behind it and caught it!"

