What is Biodiversity?

SCIENCE SUBJECT: Life Science, Ecology, Biology

GRADE LEVEL: 6 - 12

SCIENCE CONCEPTS: Biodiversity

VOCABULARY: biodiversity, ecosystems, migration, species, habitats, population, community, niche, biomes

LESSON SUMMARY:
- Take Biodiversity IQ quiz
- Ecoregional Survey (how much do you know about where you live?)

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Define biodiversity, discuss facts and issues related to California biodiversity, and list reasons why biodiversity is important

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
Readings: What is biodiversity?
What is an ecosystem?
What’s the problem with patches?

ADVANCE PREPARATION:

PROCEDURE (see teacher’s guides for instructions for each activity)
Biodiversity IQ Quiz
Have your students take the biodiversity quiz to learn about some of the tantalizing stranger-than-fiction tidbits that biodiversity has to offer. In the process, they’ll become familiar with some important biodiversity basics.

Ecoregional Survey
In this part of the activity, your students will get a chance to complete an “ecoregional survey.” It is designed to get them thinking about their local area, the plants and animals that live there, and some of the factors that may affect where and how plants and animals live in your region. Because some of the questions can require a good amount of research, Part I can be turned into a longterm project. Student groups can be assigned a particular set of questions or the entire survey to
answer. Most of the answers can be obtained by using the resources listed in the “Resources” list but encourage the students to conduct other forms of research. Local nature centers, museums, libraries and the Internet can be great resources.

**EXTENSIONS:**
- Endangered Species Gallery Walk

**STANDARDS:**

**National**
- Grades 5-8: Life Science
  - Populations and Ecosystems
  - Diversity and Adaptations of Organisms
- Grades 9-12: Life Science
  - Interdependence of Organisms

**California**
- Grades 9-12: Biology/Life Sciences
  - Ecology