

A Level Environmental Science – Activity 1

Biodiversity

Watch the video 'Why biodiversity is important' – with Sir David Attenborough by clicking the link: <https://youtu.be/GIWNuzrqe7U>



Answer the following questions:

1. Why are large fruit eaters like the spider monkey considered climate activists?
2. How many known species do we currently have catalogued on Earth, and how many more species are estimated to exist that we haven't discovered yet?
3. What role do unglamorous organisms play in keeping our planet healthy, and why are they essential for biodiversity?
4. How does biodiversity benefit humans in terms of food sources and medicine?
5. Can you provide an example of a potential medicinal discovery from nature, such as the fungus found on sloths?
6. What human actions are contributing to the destruction of biodiversity, according to the video transcript?
7. In addition to cutting carbon emissions, what other actions are suggested to slow down the crisis of biodiversity loss?

Extension: read this article on the importance of the Amazon rainforest:

The Amazon might not have a 'tipping point.' But it's still in trouble. Scientists race to foretell the fate of the vast forest facing deforestation and climate change.

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/amazon-tipping-trouble-climate-cerrado>