

Defining BIODIVERSITY

Vvi - Vegetable varieties investigation



Standards (NYS): Science: 1, 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, ELA: 1, 3

Purpose

As a group, build a working definition of biodiversity.

Materials

- Easel or chalkboard
- Marker or chalk

Time

15 minutes

Instructions

1. Working in a group, ask students what two words comprise the word, “biodiversity.”
2. Next, invite students to define **diversity**, then **biological**, and record the responses.

Based on these definitions, craft a group definition of **biodiversity**. This can be your group’s own definition, reflecting the specific words and values generated by the students. A couple of example definitions are included here for your reference. (A thorough list of biodiversity definitions can be found by searching online for “biodiversity definition”)

- *“The variety of life forms: the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems they form. It is usually considered at three levels: genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity”*
- *“The variety of life on our planet, measurable as the variety within species, between species, and the variety of ecosystems”*