

Nature Fun School

Informed by the work of IPBES
20th Issue, February 2026

How many kinds of living things are there?



Gring and Woodin are doing the "Living Things & Nature Quiz Contest"!

Living Things & Nature Quiz Contest

They said if we finish all the questions, we'll get a prize!"



Let's do it!

We will ask the questions. Just do your best!



2024 Blue Planet Prize Laureate: Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)



IPBES consists of teams of scientists, experts, and local people globally. They gather research and knowledge about living things and nature's "contributions" (ecosystem services), and share easy-to-understand options on how to protect them.

Quiz 1

Earth is home to so many different plants and animals!
Just how many species of plants and animals live on our planet?



- (A) Over 80,000
- (B) Over 800,000
- (C) Over 8,000,000

Eighty thousand already feels like so many, but...



Hmm...

Answer

(C) Over 8,000,000

Eight million!?



It's estimated that there are about 8.1 million species of plants and animals on Earth.

8.1 million? How big is that exactly?



For example, New York City has a population of about 8.48 million*. That's almost the same number!



New York City



Whoa! That's huge!



Having so many different kinds of living things is called 'species diversity.' Diversity just means there are many, many different types.

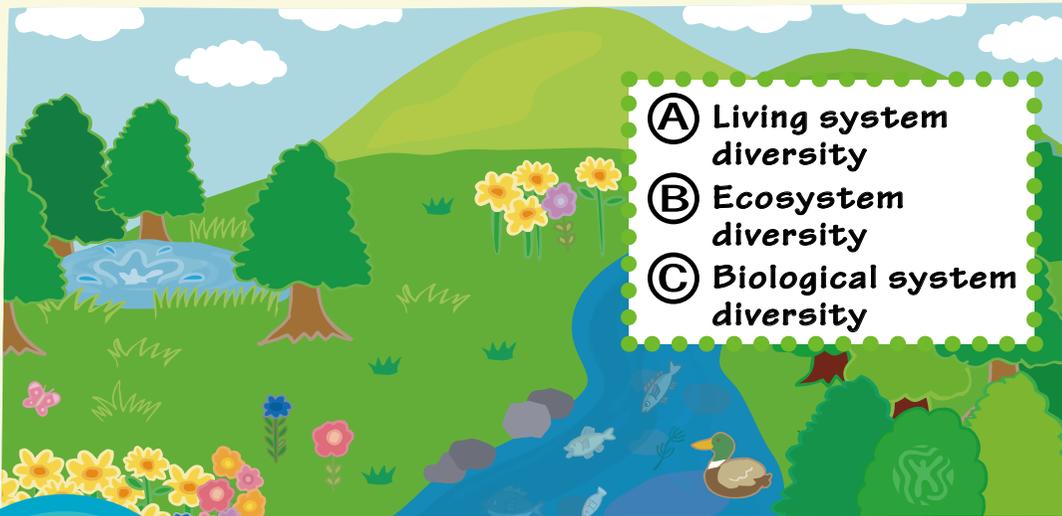


*Data as of July 2024

Hidden on pages 1-7 (one on each page) are Blue Planet Prize symbols in various colors! Can you find them all? Check out the answers in the comic on the Asahi Glass Foundation's website! This →

Quiz 2

Forests, rivers, mountains, oceans...
There are so many different habitats on Earth.
What do we call this?



- (A) Living system diversity
- (B) Ecosystem diversity
- (C) Biological system diversity



Hmm... it's about living things, so maybe C: 'biological system diversity'?

Answer

(B) Ecosystem diversity



An ecosystem is like a 'web of life' where living things and nature—like forests and rivers—are all connected. There are many types of ecosystems, including forests, rivers, wetlands, tidal flats, and the sea.



Forest



River



Wetland



Tidal Flat



Sea



So living things and nature are all linked together!

Quiz 3

Even within the same species, individuals can be born with different colors or shapes.
What do we call these natural differences?



- (A) Species diversity
- (B) Shape diversity
- (C) Genetic diversity



I wonder... where do all our differences come from?

Answer

(C) Genetic diversity



Genes are like 'blueprints' that decide the shape, color, and features of a living thing.



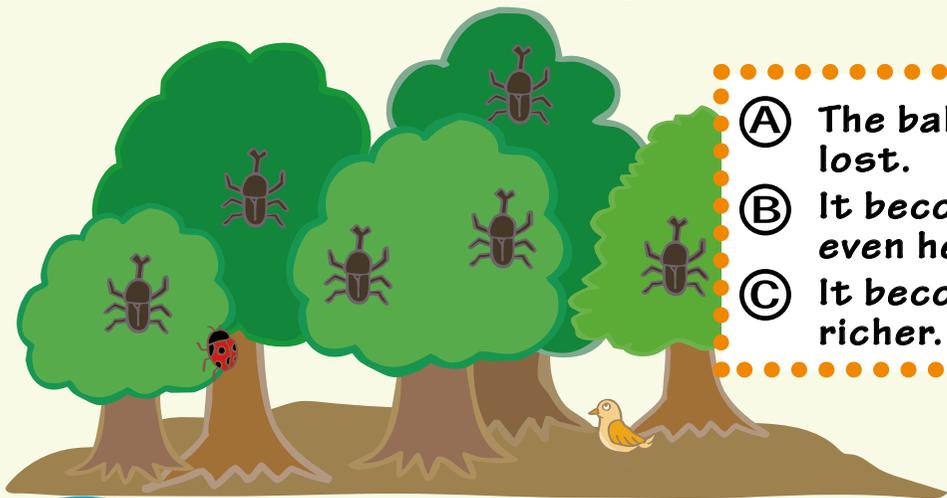
Everyone has a different face and a different body, right?



So we all have blueprints!

Quiz 4

If just one kind of living thing increases too much, what will happen to the ecosystem?



- (A) The balance is lost.
- (B) It becomes even healthier.
- (C) It becomes richer.

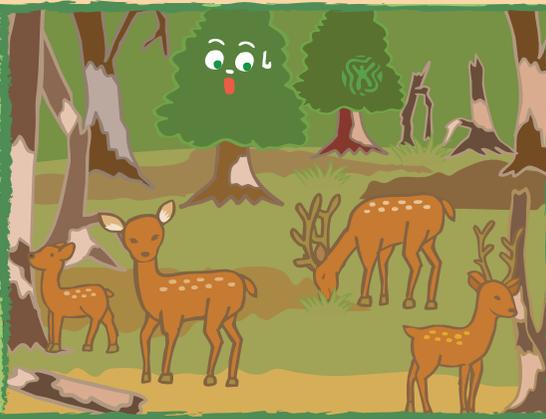


A forest full of beetles with cool horns sounds lively, but...

Answer

- (A) The balance is lost.

For example, if there are too many deer, they eat up all the grass and young trees—even the bark around trees! Without trees, other animals lose their homes. This is one way that ecosystem balance is lost.



Species, ecosystems, and genes—all these different types of diversity, together, are called 'Biodiversity.' The more variety we have, the more life can thrive, making nature rich and healthy!

So all this variety is really important!



Quiz 5

Out of the 8.1 million species of plants and animals on Earth, about how many are at risk of extinction?



- (A) About 10,000
- (B) About 100,000
- (C) About 1,000,000

*Extinction: When a species disappears from the Earth forever.



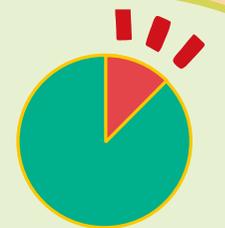
A million species of plants and animals... That can't be right...

Answer

- (C) About 1,000,000



Yes, it really is true. If we keep going like this, about one-eighth of all species of plants and animals—that's about one million species—could disappear within just a few decades.



A major reason for this is that human activities are destroying nature, and living things are losing their homes...

What should we do...?



Now for the final quiz!!

Quiz 6

Which of these helps protect biodiversity?



- (A) Don't pick flowers or plants without permission.
- (B) Take good care of your things and don't waste them.
- (C) Get to know and appreciate the living things around you.



Aren't all of these important?

Answer

All of them!



Exactly! If everyone keeps doing their part, we can protect our Earth's biodiversity.



It can open a path to saving endangered species from extinction.

Gring and Woodin won a wildlife guidebook!

I'll read this and take even better care of all living things!



Environmental Doomsday Clock
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af THE ASAHI GLASS FOUNDATION
www.af-info.or.jp

**Did you find all the symbols?
Here are the answers!**



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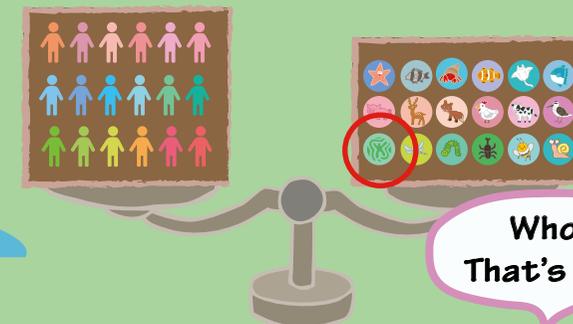
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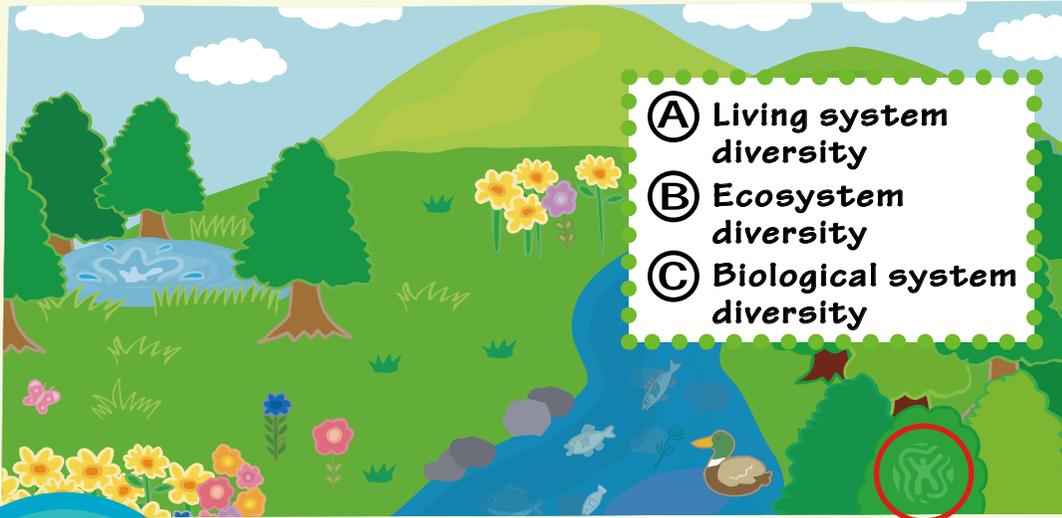


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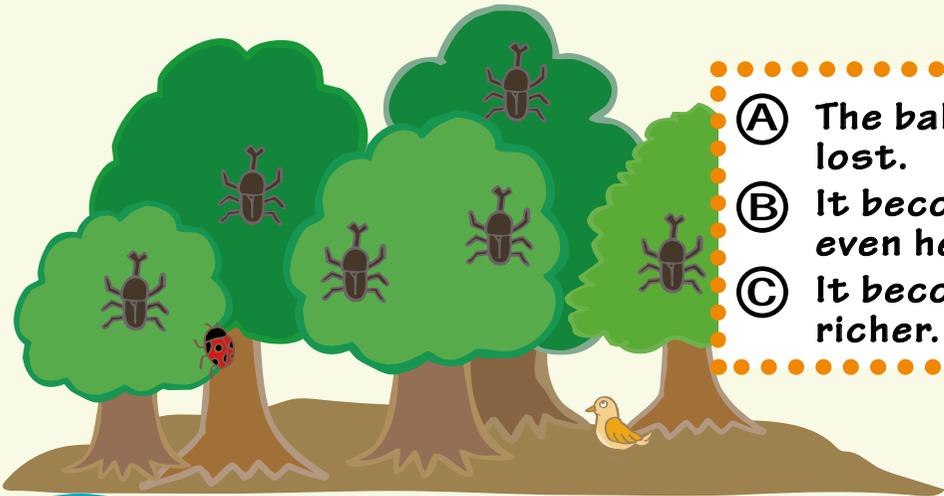
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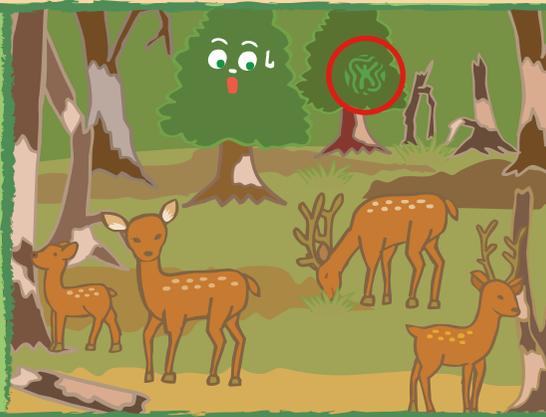


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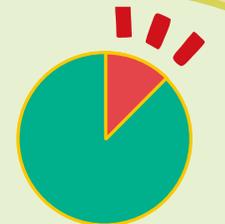
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