

# BIODIVERSITY

## Annotated Bibliography of K-12 Educational Resources Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (2/10)

The following list consists of selected resources on the general topic of Wildlife. All materials are available for loan at the WCEE Resources Library. Many more resources are available on this and other topics, and there are many resources for specific animals, such as bats, wolves, raptors, snakes, etc. There is also a separate annotated bibliography for biodiversity. Materials are also available for purchase from a variety of book stores, Acorn Naturalist, or Amazon.com. Please call or visit the WCEE for assistance or visit our web site at [www.uwsp.edu/wcee/library](http://www.uwsp.edu/wcee/library) for additional information on borrowing resources.

### Teaching Activity Guides

**Windows on the Wild: Wildlife for Sale** by World Wildlife Fund, Acorn Naturalists, Tustin, CA. (2001).

*Wildlife for Sale looks at our relationship with wildlife and how wildlife trade affects biodiversity around the world. Although habitat loss is the most serious problem facing wild plants and animals today, wildlife trade puts added stress on populations struggling to survive.*

Grade levels: 4-6, 5-9, 9-12 Length: 352 pages

Available for purchase from: AcornNaturalist.com (\$39.95)

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AC BD 12)

**Exploring Biodiversity: A Guide for Educators Around the World** by Conservation International and World Wildlife Fund, Washington, D.C. (2002).

*Contains 10 fun, easy to do activities for students aged 9 and up, designed to introduce them to the concept of biodiversity. Each activity includes background information and bolded words are defined in a glossary in the back.*

Grade levels: 5-9 Length: 10 activities, 84 pages

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AC BD 11)

**Windows on the Wild: Biodiversity Basics (Teacher and Student Editions)** by World Wildlife Fund, Acorn Naturalists, Tustin, CA. (1999).

*Developed by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), this may be the most comprehensive and usable biodiversity resource. Also includes numerous helpful appendices for additional information and cross-referencing. Highly recommended.*

Grade levels: 5-9 Length: 34 activities, 477 pages

Available for purchase from: AcornNaturalist.com (\$39.95)

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AC BD 8)

**Windows on the Wild: Oceans of Life: An Educator's Guide to Exploring Marine Biodiversity** by World Wildlife Fund, Washington, D.C. (2003).

*This guide provides ideas about how to integrate marine biodiversity into the middle school classroom. Activities and background information are designed for both formal and informal settings.*

Grade levels: 5-9 Length: 379 pages

Available for purchase from: AcornNaturalist.com (\$39.95)

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AC BD 13)

**Windows on the Wild SA: Science and Sustainability** by Danie Schreuder et.al, University of Stellenbosch, Matieland, South Africa. (2005).

*This activity book focuses on constructive and informative ways to raise awareness about biodiversity and act toward working with the environment instead of against it.*

*Grade levels: 5-9      Length: 183 pages*

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AC BD 19)

**Conservation Biology** by Robert Blair and Heidi Ballard. Kendall/Hunt, Dubuque, IA. (1996).

*Applied ecology lessons focusing on human impacts on wildlife habitat and the loss of biodiversity. Emphasis on group work. Helpful lesson subheadings.*

*Grade levels: 9-12      Length: 8 lessons, 265 pages*

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AC BD 1)

## Videos/DVDs

**Exploring the Diversity of Life** by Environmental Media Corporation, Beaufort, SC. (1996).

*Two tapes, ten 10-minute segments on a variety of biodiversity topics. A good supplement to any biodiversity unit.*

*Grade levels: 4-9      Length: 100 minutes*

Available for purchase from: [www.nature-watch.com](http://www.nature-watch.com) (\$95.00)

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AV BD 8)

**Journey to Planet Earth: The State of the Planet's Wildlife** by The Public Television Series, Screenscope Inc. (2009).

*These programs explore the fragile relationship between people and the environment. The need to find a sustainable balance is highlighted.*

*Grade levels: 4-12      Length: 57 minutes*

Available for purchase from: PBS.com (\$149.00)

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AV DVD WL 2)

**Planet Earth: As You've Never Seen It Before** by BBC Worldwide. (2007).

*In this amazing documentary from BBC, filmmakers travel all over the world to capture some of the most beautiful and inspiring footage of the Earth's last wilderness and the creatures that inhabit them. In their travels they've captured footage of some of the rarest animals known to man.*

*Grade levels: 5-Adult      Length: 11 episodes, 55 minutes ea.*

Available for purchase from: Amazon.com (\$26.49)

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AV DVD EG 20)

**Strange Days On Planet Earth** by National Geographic. (2004).

*This series asks questions and investigates strange happenings throughout Earth and how they are inter-connected and related, as well as providing knowledge about science, global environmental health, human impact, and various eco-systems. Also included with this series is an activities and curricula guide (AC EG 213).*

*Grade levels: 5-Adult      Length: 220 minutes*

Available for purchase from: Amazon.com (\$31.49)

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AV DVD EG 1)

**Amazing Planet** by National Geographic. (2006).

*A three part series from National Geographic that looks at the history of the earth and its forces, with amazing footage of today and computer reconstructions of the time during the planet's formation, eons before humans.*

*Grade levels: 9-Adult Length: 150 minutes*

Available for purchase from: Amazon.com (\$24.99)

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AV DVD EG 21)

**Planet in Peril** by CNN (2009)

This is a powerful film about wildlife trade and biodiversity issues worldwide. It gives us a broad understanding of wildlife by visiting 13 countries and investigating biodiversity.

*Grade levels: 9-Adult Length: 150 minutes*

Available for purchase from: Amazon.com (\$18.00)

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AV DVD EG 21)

## **Books for Youth**

**Why Are Animals Endangered** by Isaac Asimov, Gareth Stevens Publishing, Milwaukee, WI. (1992).

*Non-fiction. A very basic overview of some of the reasons many animals face possible extinction. Written by the famous science fiction author Isaac Asimov. Also includes appendices of additional resources.*

*Grade levels: K-6 Length: 24 pages*

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BY ES 6)

**Tree of Life: The Incredible Biodiversity of Life on Earth** by Rochelle Strauss, Kids Can Press, Toronto, ON. (2004).

*This children's book is beautifully illustrated and a great introduction to biodiversity. The book shows how living things are classified into five kingdoms and how each has much to tell us about all aspects of life on our planet.*

*Grade levels: 4-6 Length: 40 pages*

Available for purchase from: Amazon.com (\$14.21)

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BY BD 4)

## **Reference/Background Books**

**Biodiversity** edited by E.O. Wilson, National Academy Press, Washington, DC. (1988).

*Possibly the most famous book on the subject. Chapters on a variety of topics are written by many of the most prominent names in biology and ecology. Highly recommended.*

*Grade levels: 9-12, adult Length: 521 pages*

Available for purchase from: Amazon.com (\$30.00)

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BA BD 2)

**Biodiversity Debate: Exploring the Issue, The** North American Association for Environmental Education, Washington, DC. (1997).

*Published in the Environmental Issues Forums series by the NAAEE. A very complete resource covering the basic components of biodiversity controversy as well as discussions in sustainability and stewardship.*

*Grade levels: 9-12, adult Length: 42 pages*

Available for purchase from: AcornNaturalist.com (\$4.50)

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BA BD 6)

**The Forgotten Pollinators** by Stephen Buchmann and Gary Nabhan, Island Press, Washington, DC. (1997).

*With a forward by E.O. Wilson, this book focuses on the specific relationships that exist between plants and their pollinators. As such, it can be used as a springboard to discussions on interrelationships and the importance of maintaining biodiversity.*

*Grade levels: 9-12, adult Length: 292 pages*

Available for purchase from: Amazon.com (\$18.72) AcornNaturalist.com (\$29.95)

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BA BD 7 4)

**Planet Earth: As You've Never Seen It Before** by Alastair Fothergill, University of California Press, Berkeley, CA. (2006).

*In this book, the world's best nature photographers capture animals that have rarely been seen, either because of the inaccessibility of their habitat or their own elusive behavior. Each major biotic community is represented and described in lavish detail, from frozen poles to the rainforest.*

*Grade levels: 9-12, adult Length: 309 pages*

Available for purchase from: Amazon.com (\$26.37) AcornNaturalist.com (\$39.95)

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BA EG 23)

## **Websites**

**Web Rangers** by the National Park Service

*Students can create their own Ranger Station, visit web cams across the U.S, take part in interactive games and modules about natural history and wildlife/nature conservation.*

*Grade Levels: K-9*

*Web link: [www.webrangers.us](http://www.webrangers.us)*

**Pennies for the Planet** by the National Audubon Society

*A great site for parents, educators, and students to learn about conservation issues in the United States. Provides downloadable activities for students and gets them involved in collecting pennies in their communities to help these conservation projects.*

*Grade Levels: 4-adult*

*Web link: <http://togethergreen.org/p4p/>*

### **World Wildlife Fund**

*Similar to Conservation International, this site gives information on current projects through WWF and background information on conservation issues. Includes a section specifically for teachers to give project ideas, discussion materials, and background information on a variety of topics.*

*Grade Levels: 4-adult/university*

*Web link: <http://www.panda.org/>*

### **Wild World** by National Geographic

*Site features mapping activities for students as well as a “Sights and Sound” section where students can explore the animals and plants found within different ecosystems. Includes an educator’s guide, glossary, and numerous links to related resources.*

*Grade Levels: 6 - adult*

*Web link: [www.nationalgeographic.com/wildworld](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/wildworld)*

### **US Fish and Wildlife Service**

*Educators and students can find links to many different sites on birds, habitats, fish, endangered species, wildlife, plants, and refuges.*

*Grade Levels: 6-adult*

*Web link: <http://www.fws.gov/educators/educators.html>*

### **International Year of Biodiversity 2010** by United Nations Environment Programme

*Shows how countries around the world are celebrating biodiversity through interactive maps.*

*Highlights a new species everyday to learn about its habitat and current status. Also gives links to associated resources and ways you can participate in the year’s activities.*

*Grade Levels: 9-adult/university*

*Web link: [www.cbd.int/2010](http://www.cbd.int/2010)*

### **Conservation International**

*This site offers great information on current projects and initiatives by CI involving global conservation. Provides background information on various topics and would work well for student research projects.*

*Grade Levels: 12-adult/university*

*Web link: [www.conservation.org](http://www.conservation.org)*