



Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education

www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee

Suggested Web Sites **BIODIVERSITY**

Animal Diversity Web

<http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/index.html>

This web site provides pictures, sounds, and movies documenting animal species from around the world. The site's contents may be browsed by selecting from several large groups, including insects, amphibians, and birds. Users may also search for specific species of their choosing. The individual species' pages contain information about where the animal is found and how the animal reproduces, along with commenting on the behavior of that animal. Also, available pictures or movies are linked to the species' page. In addition to the species' information, teacher resources for grades K-12 are available on this web site. These resources include additional web sites with activities about animals and a worksheet for high school students to investigate the species that appear on the web site.

Animal Information Database

<http://www.seaworld.org/animal-info/index.htm>

This site features quick animal facts, animal news, and research reports. Lots of free teacher guides available in PDF format.

Biodiversity Hotspots

www.biodiversityhotspots.org

The site is intended to provide comprehensive, up to date information on the world's biologically richest and most threatened ecosystems. It showcases extensive information about each of the 25 hotspots, including a rich array of photographs, ecosystem descriptions, as well as the unique species, threats and impacts and conservation actions in each area. An interactive map allows visitors to find information geographically and features downloadable maps and lists of threatened species. A glossary of terms explains biological and conservation terminology.

BioKids

www.biokids.umich.edu/index.html

Follow the signs of the times, or at least the signs of the critters, at this site that celebrates biodiversity. In the Critter Catalog, you can get acquainted with representatives of several different classifications of creatures, including birds, fish, insects, and reptiles. The Sign Guide lets you consider various animal artifacts--bite marks, perhaps, or pawprints--to help determine what kind of animal left that particular imprint behind.

Biome/Ecosystem Webquest

<http://www3.cesa10.k12.wi.us/webquest/Eco/index.htm>

Created by the CESA 10 Ecosystem team, this site guides teams of students through a multi-disciplinary exploration of an ecosystem. Biome choices include desert, prairie, woodlands, rainforest, tundra, and wetlands. Appropriate for grades 6-8.

Center for Biodiversity Education

<http://research.amnh.org/biodiversity/>

This web site describes the outreach, education, and research programs associated with the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation. This organization operates through the American Museum of Natural History,

and seeks to increase public awareness for the planet's shrinking biodiversity through education programs and environmental research. Funded projects from New York, Vietnam, Bolivia, and Madagascar provide collaborative programs that instruct local inhabitants about environmentally-friendly practices and encourage biodiversity and stewardship of their local resources. The site also shows how to live an environmentally-friendly lifestyle by reducing water consumption and by considering the connection between food purchases and environmental impact.

Exploring Biodiversity

<http://internt.nhm.ac.uk/eb/index.shtml>

This online interactive learning exhibit from the Natural History Museum in London helps younger students learn about the nature and complexity of biodiversity. Divided into small sections, this interactive site includes many short exercises. Other resources on the site include a glossary of important terms and a feature where visitors can look up species by common name, genus, and other categories.

Tree of Life Web Project

<http://tolweb.org/tree/phylogeny.html>

This site gives access to a collaborative project that supplies information about the evolutionary history and characteristics of all groups of organisms. The site intends to aid learning and appreciation of biodiversity, along with establishing a uniform framework of phylogeny. Users navigate through links on the site as they would move through the branches and trunk of a tree, to either narrow or broaden their scope of the relationships of organisms.

Wild World Educator's Guide

<http://www.nationalgeographic.org/wildworld/pdf/educators.pdf>

The *Wild World* maps are designed to help you bring into your classroom the wonders of biodiversity and the urgency of conserving it. The Educator's Guide that accompanies the maps offers lesson plans and activities on subjects like map fundamentals, biodiversity, and ecoregions.

World Atlas of Biodiversity

<http://stort.unep-wcmc.org/imaps/gb2002/book/viewer.htm>

This is a new site from the United Nations Environment Program's World Conservation Monitoring Center (UNEP-WCMC). Like other GIS-based programs, the features of this site can be useful in demonstrating spatial patterns of environmental problems. Users can choose from dozens of map layers (derived from biodiversity and related data) to superimpose on geographical maps of the planet on a global, regional, or even local scale.