

Biodiversity Survey –MAD Green Grants 2019

1.0 Teacher Information

Why do a biodiversity survey? Your school yard is an important link to the 'Bigger Backyard' – our local environment! A biodiversity survey helps us identify and record the abundance and seasonal behaviours of the plants and animals around us. For the MAD Green Grant survey you will be working with your students to collect information **before** and **after** your project.

Using the following survey worksheets you will record the types, numbers and characteristics of key plants and animals who call your school yard home. Remember different species will be more active at different types of days and in different seasons. That's ok. Either way it provides a useful tool to help notice what is going on outside your classroom. And if you like you can take this survey multiple times over the course of the year. Just remember to keep all the records you keep dated and consistent.

2.0 Survey Method:

1. Divide your class into groups or pairs & nominate the team leader and scribe and monitor each group
2. Collect all the necessary equipment
3. Decide on your observation zones - identify the area(s) you will observe. Remember you need to return to the same place to undertake the post-project survey.
4. Discuss any considerations (safety, comfort or otherwise) that might need to be considered while you are there. In particular highlight the need to be still and silent.
5. For the purposes of the survey, habitat will be divided into six main streams
 - Bees & Butterflies
 - Birds (little, medium, large, bigger)
 - Mini beasts (lizards, frogs & insects)
 - Trees (large trees, habitat trees)
 - Understorey and weeds
 - Organic litter, rocks & logs.
6. Spread out, sit down look and listen. Encourage the group to face different directions or in different locations within your observation zone. What do you see? Records any sighting on your record sheet. Noting any details about numbers, colours and characteristics. For example you might see 4 ducks, three babies and one adult or you might observe weeds in flower.
7. Once the time is up talk about what was seen and heard as a group. Different students may have seen or heard different things.
8. Compile all the recordings into one form ready to submit
9. **Promote your findings** in your school newsletter, local newspaper, on your school website or Facebook page. This will help spread the project message and provides an opportunity for the school community to get involved in minimising waste generation.

3.0 What you will need:

A map of your school grounds, a device to take photos on and clipboards and pens. **Please note:** Staff and students should wear gloves & enclosed shoes at all times, and wash hands thoroughly at the end of the activity.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. For anything further information please contact the Sustainable Living Programs Officer on 6648 4643.

4.0 Biodiversity Survey #1

COMPLETE & SUBMIT THIS ***BEFORE*** YOU COMMENCE YOUR PROJECT. DUE TERM 2 WEEK 4 FRIDAY 24 MAY 2019.

Part one – Details

Name of School _____ Date & Time _____

Group/Class of students responsible for survey _____

What is your schools population? _____ Teacher's name _____

Part two – Record & calculate what you see

		Total numbers	Species types (if known)	Behaviours or details
1	Bees			
	Butterflies			
2	Birds - little			
	Birds - medium			
	Birds - large			
	Birds - big			
3	Mini beasts			
4	Trees - large			
	Trees -habitat			
5	Understorey plants and weeds			
6	Organic litter, rocks and logs			

Part three – more details

What are the dominant trees at your school? _____

What proportion % of your school has tree and habitat coverage? (You can use Google maps)

Are any of these species listed as threatened or vulnerable?

Please submit data from your completed survey online no later than 5pm Friday 21st June 2019 via email to jessica.steinborner@chcc.nsw.gov.au.

5.0 Biodiversity Survey #2

COMPLETE THIS ***AFTER*** YOU COMPLETE YOUR PROJECT AND SUBMIT BY 5PM FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER JUNE 2019 AS PART OF YOUR FINAL EVALUATION REPORT.

****NB**** Remember to visit the same site location as Survey #1

Part one – Details

Name of School _____ Date & Time _____

Group/Class of students responsible for survey _____

What is your schools population? _____ Teacher's name _____

Part two – Record & calculate. Use the table below to record and compare the results recorded in *both* Biodiversity Surveys.

	Category	Total numbers Survey #1	Total numbers Survey #2	Total species Types Survey #1	Total species Types Survey #2	Notes
1	Bees					
	Butterflies					
2	Birds - little					
	Birds - medium					
	Birds - large					
	Birds - big					
3	Mini beasts					
4	Trees - large					
	Trees -habitat					
5	Understorey plants and weeds					
6	Organic litter, rocks and logs					

Part three – Evaluation and next steps

Looking at the results from Survey # 1 (completed *before* your project) and Survey #2 (completed *after* your project) can you notice any differences in the amount, type or behaviour of species observed and recorded?

What further actions can you identify to maintain or continually improve biodiversity in your school community?

Area	Action	Person(s) responsible
Classroom		
Playground		
Other		

Please submit data from your completed survey online no later than 5pm Friday 22nd November 2019 via email to jessica.steinborner@chcc.nsw.gov.au

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. For anything further information please call (02) 6648 4643.