



A home for nature



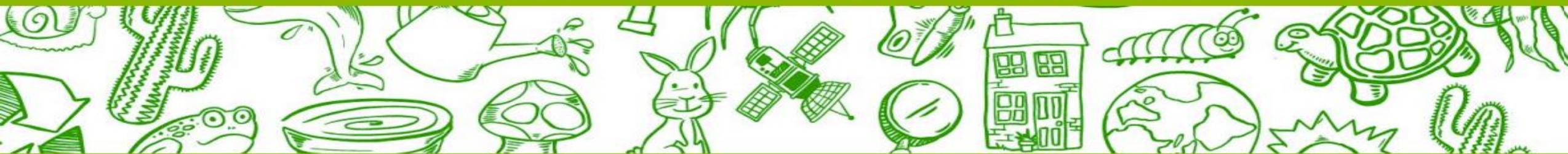


You are going to be entering a competition about biodiversity.



We rely on the intricate balance between animals and plants to provide us with all of the things we need to survive and thrive on Earth, but with animal and plant species in decline all over the world, that balance is in danger.

So this year, the bp Educational Service Ultimate STEM Challenge invites young people across the UK to **come up with a design for an amazing wild area, that includes natural and technical solutions for improving biodiversity in school grounds, at home or in the community, and helps to tackle the decline in our native wildlife.**





The Prizes

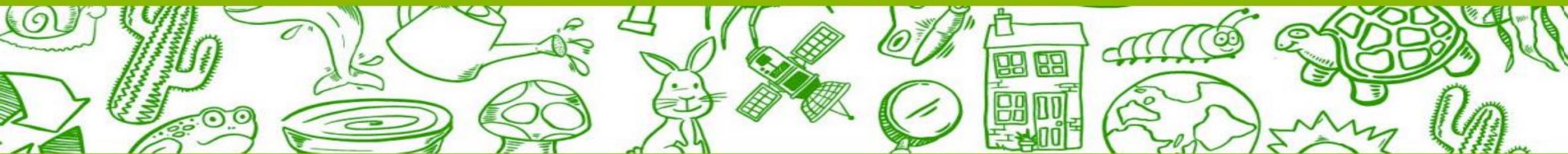


The challenge is open to 9 to 14-year olds across the UK.

Entries will be judged in two categories: age 9-11 and age 11-14.

A winner will be chosen from each age category, as well as an overall challenge winner.

The overall winner will receive a £3,000 prize to spend on creating their home for nature, while the category winners will receive £1,000 each.





Biodiversity

Watch the video to find out more about biodiversity and the competition challenge.

Go to: [bp educational service | bpES - Education teacher resources](#)

Click on

Enter a student code



at the top of the page.

Enter the code **40584**.

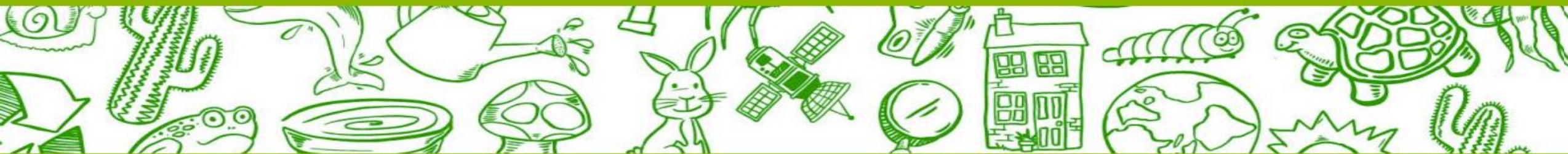
Then scroll down to the video and click on it to watch.

USC 2020-2021: Kick-off biodiversity video lesson

Video



Wildlife presenter, Michaela Strachan, introduces the challenge, explains the importance of biodiversity, and inspires pupils to take part





Activity



After you have watched the video, **complete the worksheet** (you can find this on your Dojo portfolio and on the website).

If you are unsure of any answers, go back and watch the video again.

Ultimate STEM Challenge
A home for nature

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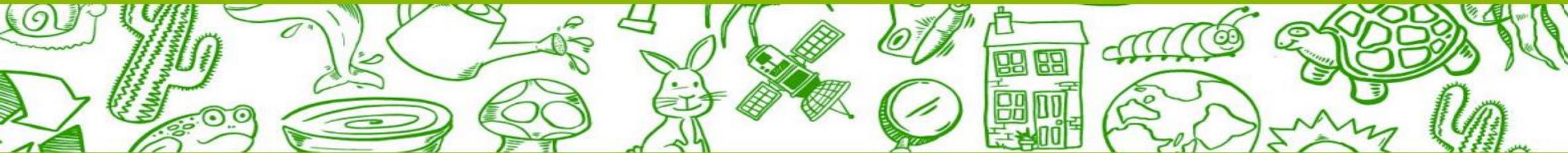
Primary

About biodiversity

Biodiversity is the huge variety of life on Earth and the way plant and animal species interact with each other and where they live.

- List as many plants and animals as you can in 2 minutes.
- Why does biodiversity matter?
Biodiversity gives us:
- What's happening to biodiversity?
Tick the statements that are true.
Biodiversity is in danger because:
 - We are cutting down too many trees.
 - We are polluting rivers, oceans and land.
 - Wild animals are killing each other more than ever before.
 - Temperatures are rising and living things are finding it harder to survive.
 Write down one more true statement:
- What can we do to improve biodiversity?
List or draw three things:
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3

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Thinking Time



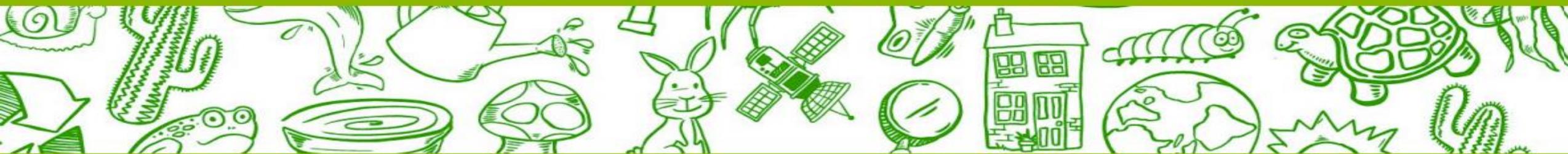
Task 1: Talk about biodiversity. Tell family and friends about your challenge. Ask them what they know about biodiversity, what it is, why it's important and why it's in decline. Tell them about the video lesson you have watched.



Task 2: Local homes for nature. Can you think of four places in your local area that are already homes for nature. Don't forget things like window boxes, nesting boxes, roof gardens, ponds and parks. Maybe you could list or sketch some of the plants and/or animals that are found there.



Task 3: Talk about change. Talk to your parents about how nature has changed in your local area. Have new houses covered up the countryside? Do as many bees, butterflies and hedgehogs visit gardens now, as in the past? Have they seen any new technology being used to improve natural areas?





Research

There is so much more you can find out about biodiversity to help you before you design your home for nature. Spend some time researching biodiversity nature projects.

Here are some useful links:

- RSPB's planting plans for wildlife gardens- useful advice and tips for increasing biodiversity in your local area <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/plants-for-wildlife/plantingplan-for-wildlife-gardens/>
- WWF Biodiversity explainer - facts and figures https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/WWF_Biodiversity_Schools_Explainer_0.pdf
- Biodiversity in schools <https://www.biodiversityinschools.com/>
- Extinction: The Facts - TV special from David Attenborough <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000mn4n>
- Anthropocene, the age of humans, from the Natural History Museum <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/anthropocene.html>

