Biodiversity Explorer Kit

Guides for Observing and Documenting Life Around You
GET STARTED WITH PLANTS

Plants are species which have chlorophyll and **produce their own food**. They play essential **ecological roles** like provision of food and shelter, regulation of water resources, and binding the soil with their roots.

**MAKING OBSERVATIONS**

- **Habit**: note the overall shape - is it a herb? shrub? tree? climber?
- **Bark**: note the bark and trunk, is it rough? smooth? any colour?
- **Leaves**: what type? simple or compound? what colour? arrangement? are they needle-like or broad? any unusual features like ‘hairy-structures’, elongated ends? what kind of edges, margins?
- **Phenology**: observe seasonal changes, ask – is it flowering? fruiting? are the leaves sprouting or shedding?
- **Senses**: observe any scents, sounds or tactile clues like spikes on the bark
- **Interactions**: observe interactions with other species like birds and insects - are they feeding, nesting, resting?
**Field Tips**

- **In your garden** - take note of the species growing on their own, not just the ones that were planted!

- **Neighbourhood** parks & waterbodies, along the roads

- **Places frequently visited** like campus, workplace, shopping centres

- **Forested areas, botanical gardens, sacred groves**

- **‘Unexpected’ spots** like on your terrace, walls, and even on other plants!

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**Explore Safely**

- **Maintain some distance**: coming in contact with certain plant species can cause skin irritation; beware of thorns.

- **Allergies**: some people are allergic to pollen, wearing a mask can be helpful.
This 'Biodiversity Explorer Kit' is for simply anybody to fall in love with biodiversity in your backyard and engage with the fascinating flora, fauna, and fungi we live with. It comprises a series of guides for invertebrates, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and plants as well as one on how to Photograph Nature for Citizen Science.

**WWF-India** is committed to creating and demonstrating practical solutions that help conserve India's ecosystems and rich biodiversity. With a conservation journey spanning over 50 years, WWF-India works towards finding science-based and sustainable solutions. We work in different geographical regions pan-India through state and field offices. The uniqueness lies in the interconnectedness of our work and its impact across thematic areas, including conservation of key wildlife species, management of their habitats; rivers and wetlands; climate change adaptation; driving sustainable solutions for business and agriculture; empowering local communities as conservation stewards; combating illegal wildlife trade, as well as environmental education to students through outreach and awareness campaigns.

This resource has been developed by **Nature Connect**, an initiative of WWF-India's extensive Environment Education programme working pan-India. We focus on biodiversity education through immersive nature-based learning experiences geared towards taking localised actions and community building. Connect with us at +91-7011390259 or [edu@wwfindia.net](mailto:edu@wwfindia.net).

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