Biodiversity Explorer Kit
Guides for Observing and Documenting Life Around You
GET STARTED WITH MAMMALS

Mammals are warm-blooded vertebrates (animals with a backbone). They are distinguished by the fur or hair that covers their body. Mammals birth live young and feed them milk.

Mammals have adapted to life on land, in water, underground, amidst tree canopies and almost every habitat the planet offers!

You might recognise diverse groups of mammals like – carnivores, bats, rodents, primates, toothless insect eaters like pangolins, marine mammals, and more!

MAKING OBSERVATIONS

- Categorise into a sub-group - does it look like a monkey? deer? cat? rodent?
- Observe size (from snout to tail tip, approximately in cms) which helps differentiate similar species
- Focus on patterns (stripes of a tiger) and markings (rosettes of a leopard), note overall colours of the ventral (top side) and dorsal (underside) body
- Listen for calls as well as responses, they hold a lot of information.
- Note group dynamics - in pairs? solitary? large or small group?
- Attune to observing behaviour - feeding, playing, attracting a mate, defending territory or caring for young
**FIELD TIPS**

What to look out for...

- **Poop** – scat, pellets, dung
- Presence of burrows / nests or other types of homes
- **Pug / hoof**-marks
- **Scratches** on bark
- **Shed body parts** like quills and antlers
- **Evidence of feeding** – gnawed bark, remains of prey
- **Calls** are good indicators of their presence

Where to look...

- **Gardens, farmlands, forests, grasslands** and waterbodies
- **Larger mammals** usually stay away from densely populated urban areas
- **Look up** in the trees, archways
- **Nooks and crannies** in natural / man-made structures
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.

Concept
Shonali Chenzira

Content
Aparajita, Nikhil John & Shonali Chenzira

Artwork
Vanshika Mody