

BIODIVERSITY 101

Biodiversity is the vast diversity of life found on Earth. It includes every living thing, from the smallest microorganisms we can't even see to plants, animals, and humans. All these species rely on each other to survive. They are woven together to support life on Earth, and if anything happens to one species, it has a ripple effect, impacting many other species. To put it simply... biodiversity is the "fabric of life!"



PART 1.

Learn more about this connectivity by reading the "What Is Biodiversity?" and "Why Is Biodiversity Important?" chapters from the *Biodiversity at Risk: Today's Choices Matter* website: <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/resource/26384/interactive>. Use the back of this sheet or separate paper to take notes as you read. Once done, fill in the facts below.

Write five facts you learned about biodiversity.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Write five facts about why biodiversity is important.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

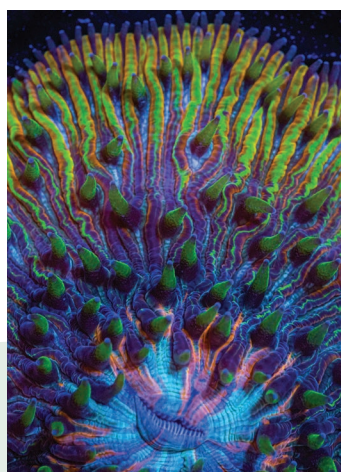


Plate large polyp stony coral

PART 2.

Using your notes, art supplies, and your imagination, design a poster to celebrate biodiversity. Be sure to identify why it is crucial to our survival, why it makes life livable, and why we should encourage everyone to recognize its importance. On the back of your poster, write a brief paragraph explaining why you chose to highlight the themes you selected.