

Study Guide for the Australian Collaboration Fact and Issue Sheet

BIODIVERSITY

FOR REVIEW

1. Refer to the definition of biodiversity in the first paragraph. What do you understand the following terms, found within the definition of biodiversity, to mean?
 - Variability
 - Organism
 - Terrestrial
 - Aquatic
 - Marine
 - Ecosystem
 - Species
2. Australia is one of the countries to have signed the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. What are the 3 main goals of this convention?
3. What is species diversity?
4. Compare the species diversity of 3 different types of ecosystems.
5. Explain why genetic diversity is important.
6. List 6 different types of ecosystems.
7. Refer to the section of text in the right hand column of the Fact Sheet, “Plants purify the air ... the origin of life”. Create an annotated diagram that illustrates the ideas contained in this section of the text.
8. Give 3 reasons why Australia has a rich biodiversity.
9. Construct a flow diagram to show how biodiversity in Australia is threatened.
10. Australia has a very high percentage of endemic species.
 - What does this term mean?
 - Do you believe that this adds to Australia’s global responsibility to maintain biodiversity? Justify your viewpoint.

FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are the threats to the tropics and rangelands of northern Australia?
2. Summarise the extent of modification to Australia’s forests. Suggest differing views that may exist about how we should use our forests.
3. The Fact Sheet gives 6 areas where policies are needed to create sustainable rural landscapes. Do you believe any of these should have a higher priority than others? Justify your ranking.
4. What are the threats to Australia’s marine environments?

“Biodiversity is the common heritage of humankind”

Imagine that you are in a debate and have to speak on the affirmative side. Prepare a 2 minute speech.
5. Take part in a class debate on “Biodiversity is the common heritage of humankind”.

FOR RESEARCH

1. Identify ONE threatened/endangered species in Australia. Prepare a short report that includes the following: Description of the species, Distribution, Threats, Possible Solutions.
2. Use the internet and go to www.biodiversityhotspots.org. Investigate the Hotspot in South West Australia. What problems does this region face and what can be done about them?
3. Design a poster based on a world map that shows several Biodiversity Hotspots and annotate the map with the nature of the threats in each region.
4. Use the internet and go to www.wilderness.org.au. Select Land Clearing from the Wilderness Society’s list of Campaigns. Use the information to write a letter outlining your objection to land clearing in a particular region because of its impact on biodiversity.