

Biodiversity 1

Mark Scheme

Cut and paste. What biodiversity does for us. *This activity is to promote discussion, there is no right or wrong answer, what matters is that you can give reasons (justify) your choice.*

	<i>An example of justification (you may not have all this information but have still given a good reason in your own words).</i>
Variety of crops, medicines and materials	<i>3 crops provide 60% of the world's food (wheat, maize and rice). By drawing on plants found in the wild or used by indigenous people we can better adapt to changing climate. More diverse diets also mean people get enough of the micro-nutrients they need to avoid deficiency diseases.</i>
Reserves for the future	<i>We know almost nothing about most of the world's species, it has taken 4.5 billion years for these life forms to evolve, if we don't save them no they will be lost forever.</i>
Clean air and water	<i>Streams which have more species of algae remove pollutants more effectively. The leaves of plants absorb pollution from the air, when there is a greater variety of plants eg tall and low, air is cleaner.</i>
Recycles and store nutrients, make healthy soil	<i>A teaspoon of top soil can contain up to 6 billion organisms with many different species. The micro-organisms mean the nutrients in dead things are recycled. They also give soil a good structure so that it is less likely to be eroded by wind or water.</i>
Help control climate	<i>Ecosystems currently absorb half of human made carbon emissions, more diverse ecosystems are more resilient/able to cope with change. Trees affect the water cycle and produce cooling in an area as water evaporates from their leaves.</i>

I can organise the things biodiversity does for us from things which I think are most important to things which I think are least important. It is also fine for you to put all the cards in the same position if you can explain why.

(5 marks)

I can give a reason for my most important choice.

(5 marks)