

Houston Zoo at Home

EARTH WEEK: IN THE TEXAS WETLANDS

Backyard BioBlitz

All Ages

Biodiversity is important. This term is used to define the variety of living things (plants and animals) in an area. A rainforest, a pond, the bayou, a park or your neighborhood are all areas that show biodiversity or different kinds of plants and animals. Houston Zoo likes biodiversity because it means that place is healthy for animals. Let's take a look around your home and see what kind of biodiversity you can find.

Materials Needed:

- A camera or something for notetaking
- Your eyes!

Steps

1. Travel around your home (outside & inside) and see if you can count 50 different kinds of plants and animals. You don't have to know what they are, just know that they're different!
2. Take pictures to make a photo-journal of your discoveries or take detailed notes to help you remember what you've found.
3. Get low, go slow, and enjoy the show! Tiny things count too, so be sure to look closely under blades of grass, behind leaves of trees, or even in puddles! To help you focus, make a quadrant with paper or string to define a search area.



4. Marvel at your discoveries! There are usually way more living things around us than we notice. Take a moment to thank them for all they do to keep our earth healthy for us and the animals we all love.

Happy 50th anniversary of Earth Day!

Share your project with us!

Tag your photo using #HoustonZoo or email us your story at communications@houstonzoo.org.

Dragonfly Feet Art

Ages: 0-12

Dragonflies are one of the many insects you can find in wetlands. Sometimes, we can see a lot of them after a heavy rain, near the bayou or by a pond. Dragonflies also come in a variety of colors and sizes, making each one you find unique. Let's get creative and make your own version of a dragonfly

Materials Needed:

- 1 sheet of Construction paper color of your choice
- White paper
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Glue or tape
- Paint or stamp pad

Steps

1. Using the construction paper, cut out a long oval shape (this will be the body of your dragonfly).
2. Cut out two large circles using the white paper (this will be the eyes of your dragonfly).
3. Paste or tape the two white circles onto the oval shape.
4. Using the paint or stamp pad, coat your feet with the ink or paint and make 4 footprints (these will be the wings of the dragonfly).
5. Once dry, cut along the edge of the footprints and arrange them onto the back of your dragonfly.



Share your project with us!

Tag your photo using #HoustonZoo or email us your story at communications@houstonzoo.org.