

# Biodiversity

## what can you do to help?



Investing  
in Nature

A Partnership for Plants in Canada  
Un partenariat canadien pour les plantes

[www.bgci.org/canada](http://www.bgci.org/canada)

### Learn:

Take the following true/false quiz about Canadian biodiversity.

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 1. There are currently 431 plant and animal species at risk in Canada.   | <b>T or F</b> |
| 2. Almost all of the original prairie ecosystems in Canada are intact.   | <b>T or F</b> |
| 3. Canada's boreal forest is one of the biggest intact forest ecosystems in the world.   | <b>T or F</b> |
| 4. Expanding cities and pollution are two of the biggest threats to biodiversity in Canada.  | <b>T or F</b> |
| 5. About half of all living organisms in the world have been identified and named.   | <b>T or F</b> |
| 6. Canadian botanical gardens and arboreta do plant research, lead conservation projects for plants, and can help you learn more about plant biodiversity. | <b>T or F</b> |

### Results:

1-2 answers right: Biodiversity novice — try some of the projects on the next page to learn more

3-4 answers right: Biodiversity leader — lead a community project to teach others and learn more about biodiversity

5-6 answers right: Biodiversity expert — share your biodiversity knowledge with friends and family!

**Learn more!** Sign up for education programs at botanical gardens.

**Learn more!** Search for websites about biodiversity in Canada. Start at [www.bgci.org/canada](http://www.bgci.org/canada).



**Biodiversity — the amazing variety of life on earth!**

- Answers:**
1. True! According to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) there are 431 species at risk in Canada.
  2. False! Only 10% of Canada's original prairies remain.
  3. True! Canada's boreal forest is one of the biggest intact forest ecosystems in the World.
  4. True! Most Canadians live in southern Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia where some of the most threatened species also live. These species are threatened mostly because of the loss of their habitat.
  5. False! Scientists think that there are between 10 and 100 million species on Earth. But only 1.5 million of these have actually been named and classified, and only about 150,000 have been scientifically studied. It is hard to know exactly how many species exist. Some may have disappeared before being discovered.
  6. True! To find out more, look at the "Have You Thanked a Plant Today" exhibit, travelling to a botanical garden in Canada near you!

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### Act:

- Help plant native plants, clean out streams, and protect endangered plants by taking part in local plant conservation projects with community groups.
- As much as possible, eat locally grown fresh foods for your health and the environment's.
- Make decisions that reduce the amount of garbage you make. Bring you lunch in reusable containers and pass your clothes on to someone else. Less garbage means more habitat and a healthier environment.
- Other (add your own ideas):

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### Share:

- Volunteer at a local botanical garden or arboretum to help educate visitors about plants and biodiversity.
- Encourage your family, friends, and neighbours to reduce pesticide use. Many non-toxic alternative are available and are healthier for you and for biodiversity.
- Share your time with people and plants: help out at community or school yard garden
- Other (add your own ideas):

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