



Earth Day 2010

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SOME SCIENTISTS BELIEVE that we lack knowledge of 90 percent of the earth’s creatures. With all the current research, study, and efforts to conserve energy, save species, protect natural habitats, and reveal our natural world, there is much more to discover. As we work to uncover our planet’s mysteries, there is opportunity to protect and preserve the variety and abundance of nature. ✨ Biological diversity is often shortened to the word *biodiversity*. The term was first used by wildlife scientist and conservationist Raymond F. Dasmanna in a 1970s book advocating nature conservation. In the 1980s it came into common usage in science and environmental policy. ✨ Biodiversity is the variety among living organisms from all sources, and the ecological complexes of which they are part. It encompasses diversity within species, between species, and of terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems. In general, biodiversity is the totality of genes, species, and ecosystems in a particular region of the world. ✨ In his book, *The Diversity of Life*, Pulitzer Prize-winning Harvard entomologist Edward O. Wilson describes the crucial importance of global conservation initiatives for our planet’s biodiversity: “The ethical imperative should therefore be, first of all, prudence. We should judge every scrap of biodiversity as priceless while we learn to use it and come to understand what it means to humanity. We should not knowingly allow any species or race to go extinct.” ✨ While staggering statistics describe the loss of species, degradation of the planet’s ecosystems, and the threat of global warming, there are bright spots as well. Concerned and talented people dedicate their lives to serving the biosphere and biodiversity by working to restore wetlands and forests; to protect endangered animal species; and by researching ways to reduce pollution and produce clean air and water. It is an interdependent world. Biodiversity includes each living organism and the integral parts of nature that surround them. 🌿

- 1 African Elephant
- 2 Bee
- 3 Faviere Tree
- 4 Alerce Tree
- 5 Kirtland’s Warbler
- 6 Red Kite
- 7 Dragon Tree
- 8 Basking Malachite Damselfly
- 9 Phelsuma Antanosy Gecko
- 10 Large Copper Butterfly
- 11 Iberian Lynx
- 12 Tasmanian Devil
- 13 Predaceous Diving Beetle



- 14 Jellyfish
- 15 Purple Marsh Crab
- 16 Dlinza Forest Pinwheel Snail
- 17 Yellow-Margined Box Turtle
- 18 Golden Frog
- 19 Funcia di Basiliscu
- 20 Squartetail Coral Grouper
- 21 Sea Fan
- 22 Sea Sponge
- 23 Giant Clam
- 24 Coral

Also pictured: spider, ant, grasshopper, earthworm, various protozoans and archaea.