



WILD CLASSROOM

# SPECIES ABCs

## 3-5 EDUCATOR GUIDE



### Objectives:

- Students will learn more about species and their roles in their environment.
- Vocabulary related to habitats and ecosystems will be enhanced.
- Learners will understand the importance of biodiversity.

**Suggested uses:** The Species ABCs can be used in a variety of ways; here are some examples:

- **Visuals:** Hang each printout around your classroom or learning area to provide an interesting and engaging visual for students.
- **Reading/research material:** Clip the printouts together into a pamphlet so that learners can use them as reading material or as a reference for projects.
- **Writing activity:** Have students select one of the animals from the Species ABCs and then, using the facts provided and additional information from the WWF webpage, write a short paragraph about why that animal is important and needs our protection.
- **Pair-share:** Assign each participant a letter and then place the participants into pairs. Have the learner pairs discuss their animals and list similarities and differences using a Venn diagram.
- **Craft:** Have the students create a biodiversity mosaic using the species from the Species ABCs or others using the instructions outlined in the [biodiversity toolkit activity](#).



## WILD CLASSROOM

- **Active independent activity:** Temporarily tape the printouts around the room and create a scavenger hunt in which participants must locate one animal from four different types of habitats.
- **Active group activity:** Assign each participant a letter and then place participants in groups. Provide the background prompt that they are the next team of wildlife superheroes. Ask the groups to brainstorm a team name, identify their team members' superpowers (using the information provided), and describe how they work together to keep their environment healthy.
- **Student questions:** Pose the following questions for either a group discussion or as an individual assignment:
  - ❑ Name one unique behavior that an animal has adapted to be able to survive.
  - ❑ Provide several examples of ways that animals help other animals in their ecosystems.
  - ❑ What would affect an animal's ability to successfully thrive in its environment?
  - ❑ What can scientists learn about an area from the species that live there?
  - ❑ What is biodiversity and why is it important?



### Additional resources about species and biodiversity:

[World Wildlife Fund webpage](#)

[Kahoot!](#)

[Wild Classroom YouTube channel](#)

[Work Out Your Wild Side exercise challenge](#)

[Wildlife Arts and Crafts](#)

["The Bad Guys" SEL activity and science activity](#)

["Extinction! A Biodiversity Crisis" Minecraft game](#)

