

# BioBlitz

IN YOUR BACKYARD



## What is a BioBlitz?

A BioBlitz is part contest, part festival, part educational event, and part scientific endeavor where MPM brings together a group of scientists in a race against time to see how many **species** they can count in a **24-hour celebration of biodiversity** in a Wisconsin natural area.

So far, we have done five total BioBlitz events! [Visit our website](#) to check out the work MPM and other area scientists have done.

## Vocabulary Word!

**Species:** A group of plants or animals that are similar and can produce young animals or plants.

## You will need:

This datasheet      A hula hoop  
A pen or pencil      A timer

## Directions:

1. Go outside and observe your backyard for five minutes.  
Notice where the plants and animals are located.
2. Set your hula hoop in an area where you think there will be many living things.
3. Set the timer for five minutes. Press start when you're ready!
4. Count the number of species you see inside the hula hoop.
5. Record what you see on this datasheet.  
If you do not know the name of a species, do your best to describe it.
6. Once time is up, take a look at your notes and answer these questions.
  - a. How many species did you find?
  - b. What species did you find that you want to learn more about?
  - c. What factors might affect the number or type of species you found?  
(Weather, season, etc.)
  - d. If you did this activity again, what would you do differently?

## What is a Backyard BioBlitz?

In the spirit of MPM's BioBlitz, we created this backyard version for you to do at home! In a race against the clock, count as many **individual plant and animal species** as you can inside a hula hoop.

Please share any interesting or unique findings with us on social media using **#MPMWhatWillYouFind!**



Species Type (plant,  
animal, insect, fungus)

Species Name and/or Description

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20