



# DISCOVER BIODIVERSITY

at the American Museum of Natural History



**B**iodiversity means all the living things—all the species, including you—on Earth. See a lot of weird and wonderful animals and plants. Discover how they depend on each other.

Find the northeastern U.S. **FOREST FLOOR DIORAMA**. It's just outside the Hall of Biodiversity, as you pass under the giant jellyfish. It looks like this.

Millions of tiny animals and plants live on top of and under the forest floor. In this diorama everything is 24 times bigger than in real-life but you still can't see the microorganisms—like bacteria—which are so small you need a microscope to see them.



Which animal or plant is your favorite?  
Draw a picture of it!

Look in the diorama.  
**Can you find:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> the carpenter ant | <input type="checkbox"/> the daddy longlegs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the earthworm     | <input type="checkbox"/> the acorn          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the slime fungus  |   |

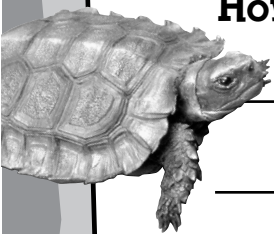
**Did you know that:**

- \* fungi and other organisms live off dead animals and plants, recycling them back into the forest soil
- \* earthworms and microorganisms create passages that let air and water flow through the soil
- \* other animals, like the daddy longlegs and the pseudoscorpion hunt animals to eat



Can you guess how it connects to other plants and animals on the forest floor?

How do **YOU** depend on other animals and plants?



Be sure to visit the Discovery Room!

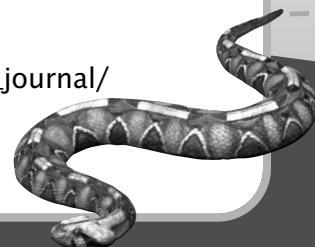
See lots more biodiversity—different species of plants and animals—in these other Museum halls:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birds of the World             | <input type="checkbox"/> North American Forests     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Akeley Hall of African Mammals | <input type="checkbox"/> New York State Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North American Mammals         | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Mammals              |

Which is your favorite hall?

**VISIT THESE BIODIVERSITY WEB SITES:**

- ◆ **Ology**  
<http://ology.amnh.org/>
- ◆ **Online Field Journal**  
[www.amnh.org/nationalcenter/online\\_field\\_journal/](http://www.amnh.org/nationalcenter/online_field_journal/)
- ◆ **Resources for Learning**  
[www.amnh.org/resources/biodiversity](http://www.amnh.org/resources/biodiversity)



More Fun  
on Next Page

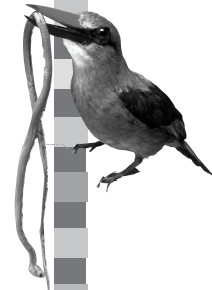
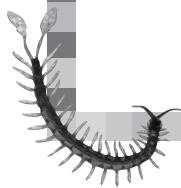
## SPECTRUM OF LIFE WALL

This wall inside the Hall of Biodiversity shows how Museum scientists sort and classify all living things. Look up at the wall (and on the ceiling above). **Can you find:**

a plant

an insect

a reptile



Draw them and write their names above



## RAIN FOREST TREASURE HUNT

Find this other forest inside the Hall of Biodiversity. This one is a rain forest, the Dzanga-Sangha Rain Forest in the Central African Republic. When scientists study a rain forest they divide it into three different levels, like the stories in a building: the forest floor, the understory, and the canopy.

Can you find the animals and plants that live in different parts of the rain forest? Make an observation about each. (Hint about things to observe: What does it eat? Where does it live? Who is it with?)

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### THE CANOPY (sit back on the benches and look up high in the treetops)



African Pied Hornbill



Moustached Monkeys



Elegant Galago

MY OBSERVATION

### THE UNDERSTORY (look straight in front of the railing)



Rhinoceros Beetle



Emperor Moth



Tree Pangolin

MY OBSERVATION

### THE FOREST FLOOR (look down on the floor of the diorama)



Dung Beetle



Blue Duiker



Seedlings

MY OBSERVATION