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Student Pages - Biodiversity in My Neighborhood

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Name: _____   **Date: _____**   **Class/Period:_____**

Activity 1.1 Biodiversity in My Neighborhood

In your previous classes you may have heard the term *biodiversity*. What does the term biodiversity mean to you? In the space below, describe what you think "biodiversity" is:

I think BIODIVERSITY means:

Why is biodiversity important in your neighborhood?

Biodiversity is important because:

There are several ways to determine the biodiversity of a particular area. Before we examine how ecologists numerically measure biodiversity, let's first examine three different locations in the city of Boston. These three sites are located along a transect. A transect is a way of sampling an area along a line. This line can be a road, a river or an actual line drawn on a map. In this case we chose three locations along the MBTA's Orange subway line.

	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3
1. Describe this habitat. What does it look like? (buildings, open space, trees, etc.)			
2. Describe how the habitat influences the bio-diversity of the area. Would each site have low or high levels of biodiversity?			

2. Comparing the three sites, which site would you expect to have the highest bird biodiversity? Write a scientific argument where you provide your evidence and reasoning for why you selected that site and not either of the other two sites