

Forest Biodiversity Cube Activity Sheet

Instructions for Creating a Diversity Cube

1. On a photocopier, enlarge the "Diversity Cube" template from 8 1/2" x 11" to 11" x 17".
2. **Square # 1 Landscape Diversity**
Have students hold their hands straight out in front of them with their extended thumbs touching. You should now be looking at a forest scene framed by your pointer fingers and thumbs. Draw the forest scene on one square of the cube.
3. **Square # 2 Species Diversity**
Using the scene from the above step find a species such as a maple tree, a vanilla plant, or salal plant. Draw what it looks like on square #2. On square #3 write a short poem or description about that species.
4. **Square # 3 Species Diversity**
Have the students write a short poem about one of the species they observed.
5. **Square #'s 4- 6 Genetic Diversity**
Have students make leaf prints of three different specimens of the same species. Have the students do rubbings or drawings on the remaining squares on their "Diversity Cube." This can be done outdoors, or you can bring some leaves back to the classroom.
6. **Put your "Diversity Cube" together.**
Cut along the solid lines and fold along the dotted lines. Then glue the flaps and allow to dry. The cubes can be hung up or kept loose.

To make leaf rubbings:

- choose a leaf
- lay it upside down on a hard surface
- position one of the squares of the "Diversity Cube" over the leaf and rub evenly over the leaf using the side of a wax crayon
- the shape of the leaf will gradually emerge

To make leaf prints: (Make these last so the paint won't be smeared)

- choose a leaf (leaves with large veins or ribs work the best) and paint one side with tempera or acrylic paint.
- lay it upside down on a hard surface, position one of the squares of the "Diversity Cube" over the leaf and rub evenly over the leaf using the side of a wax crayon. The shape of the leaf will gradually emerge.



