

# Thematic Statement

The tremendous biodiversity in creation is God’s marvellous gift to creation and to all its creatures, especially to us humans who can appreciate it and glorify God for it, and who are also given the responsibility to care for it and nurture it.

As they come to know the extent and number of living things and the differences between them, students begin to appreciate the extent and diversity of God’s creation plan. They begin to ask the big questions in this unit, “What is God’s purpose in such diversity?” and “How can we care for and nurture this biodiversity?” Because all living things are connected, maintaining biodiversity is critical to the health of the planet. Biodiversity contributes to the stability of natural systems and is a benefit to the well-being of humans and all other living things. Human choices have huge – and often unforeseen – impacts on biodiversity.

In this unit, students will assess the impact on species and ecosystems of various kinds of development of a natural forested area. Representing a number of constituents interested in buying the Hannah property, students will consider how and why the perspectives of developers, farmers, families, people concerned about the environment, and residents of the local community might be similar or different. By engaging in thoughtful consideration of various viewpoints and biases, students are confronted with the challenge of making wise and informed decisions about using God’s creation while minimizing any potential negative impact of their actions. By asking the question, “How does my proposal for this land impact biodiversity?” students synthesize the content learned in the unit. The experience of natural settings like forests, woodlots and wetlands in a field study engages students in an appreciation for the complexity and beauty of God’s creation.

Students review the characteristics of living things, learn to classify diverse organisms according to specific characteristics, appreciate the task of naming such a vast number of species, and then begin to understand how each species plays an important role in God’s plan for the earth.

Students will engage in thoughtful consideration of these essential questions:

**What is God’s purpose in his gift of biodiversity?**

**How can we care for and nurture the biodiversity of creation?**

*“Thus the heavens  
and the earth  
were completed  
in their entire vast array.”*

*~ Genesis 2:1 (TNIV)*