

# Biodiversity Appreciation Days

A mini lesson for all grades

## Time required:

1-2 class periods

## Materials:

- Computers for research
- Art supplies for creating posters
- Computer design software (optional)

## Curriculum Connections:

This lesson plan touches on multiple learning objectives for grades 1 through 12.

Please refer to Ministry of Education Curriculum documents for specific connections.



BEAN has many resources to accompany biodiversity appreciation days throughout the whole year, including:

**Ontario's Backyard Birds**  
(World Migratory Bird Day, May 11)

**What Size Footprint Are You Leaving on the Earth?**  
(World Environment Day, June 5)

**Ontario's Oceans**  
(World Oceans Day, June 8)

## Background:

Our annual calendar is full of awareness days. Whether dubbed "awareness day", "appreciation day", or "international day of...", they all serve the same purpose: to recognize and educate about an important issue, resource, or species. March is home to many awareness days including the Invading Species Awareness Week, World Wildlife Day, the International Day of Forests, and World Water Day.

In this mini lesson, students will practice their language, media literacy and art skills to create a campaign poster for their favourite awareness day. They will research the history of the day and link its importance to biodiversity in Ontario.

## Activity 1: Choose your Awareness Day

Choose from some of BEAN's favourite Awareness Days:

- Squirrel Appreciation Day (Jan. 21)
- World Wetlands Day (Feb. 2)
- World Wildlife Day (Mar. 3)
- Bat Appreciation Day (Apr. 17)
- International Day for Biological Diversity (May 22)
- World Oceans Day (Jun. 8)
- Canada Parks Day (Jul. 20)
- International Owl Awareness Day (Aug. 4)
- Coastal Cleanup Day (Sep. 21)
- World Habitat Day (Oct. 7)
- Take a Hike Day (Nov. 17)
- World Wildlife Conservation Day (Dec. 4)

More events can be found on [BEAN's event calendar](#) or [daysoftheyear.com](#)

## Activity 2: Create a campaign poster

Students will research their awareness day and create a campaign poster highlighting the day's history and importance to biodiversity. Consider the target audience when designing. Include the following on the poster:

- Name and date of the awareness day
- History/origin
- Image(s)
- Website or link for more information
- Relevance to biodiversity (importance of species in ecosystem, habitats that support biodiversity, linking biodiversity to human health, etc.)

**Extension:** Recreate your poster using a computer design software.

[www.canva.com](http://www.canva.com) is an excellent, free online tool for design and can be accessed from any computer with an internet connection.