



Biodiversity Crossword

Ideal for grades 4-7

Appropriate for grades: 3-12

Materials Needed: copies of crossword template, writing materials

Activity Categories: pre-visit, post-visit, crossword

Students can brainstorm a list of words that describe biodiversity that are 10 letters long or less. Then they will come up with their own clues that describe each word (e.g. "an assortment" is a clue for "variety"). Students will fill in the crossword template (attached). Students will write in at least 10 words that all fit together just as they would in a crossword (e.g. "ecosystem" written vertically and "species" written horizontally with both words sharing an "e"). Then students will go through and write a number in the top box of each word, started in the top left corner moving across by rows.

Once they have done this, students will fill in the word's clues under either "across" or "down" with the corresponding number. Then students should go through and fill in all remaining blocks with a black pencil crayon. Once completed, students will make a copy with only the numbers, clues, and black boxes. Switch the copies with a friend to see if they can solve their puzzle! See attached for an example.

To challenge students, you can give them a larger grid and ask for more words.

Pre-Visit modifications: Once completed, write all of the words on the board and discuss their definitions. Do multiple words have the same definition? How can you write effective clues?

Post-Visit modifications: Brainstorm new words based on what you learned at the museum.



BEATY BIODIVERSITY MUSEUM

Created by: _____

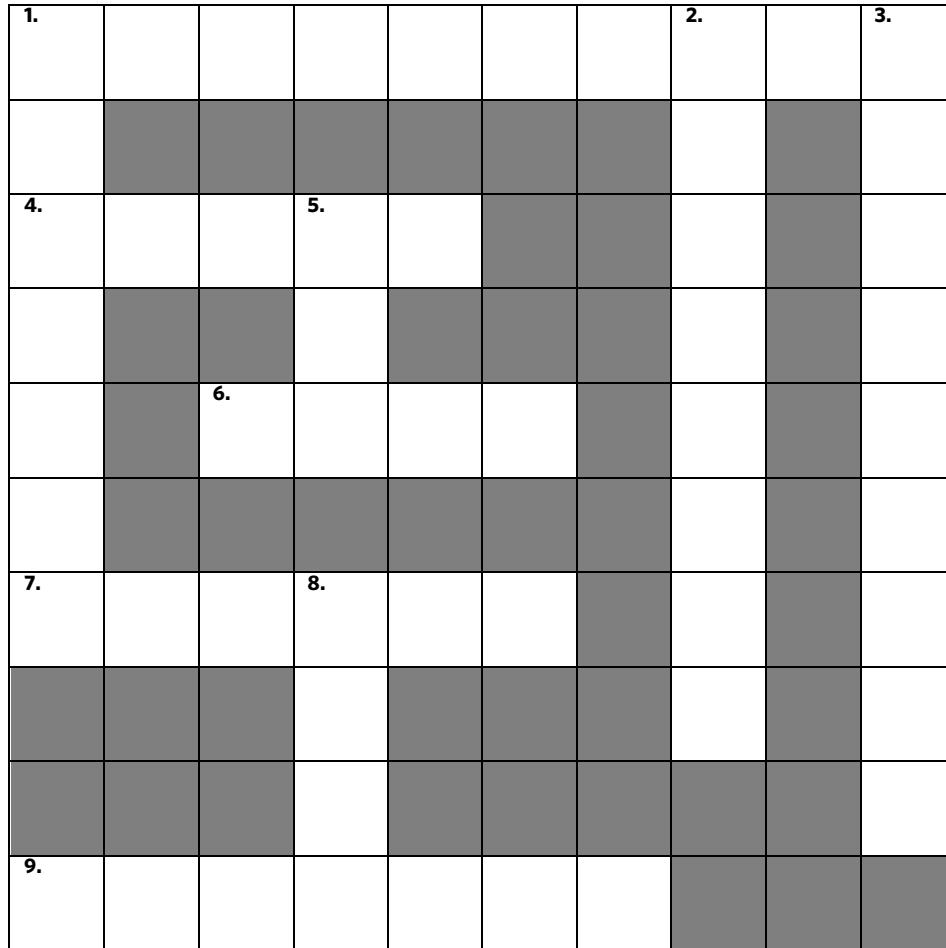
Clues: Across

Down



BEATY BIODIVERSITY MUSEUM

Example created by: [Beaty Biodiversity Museum](#)



Clues: Across

1. Organisms without a nucleus

4. Change to suit an environment

6. Primitive vascular plant

7. Change over time

9. Record of living history

Down

1. Kingdom of green creatures

2. Living thing

3. Location something lives in

5. ___ historic

8. Insects have six ____



BEATY BIODIVERSITY
MUSEUM

Answer Key

Crossword Puzzle:

P	R	O	K	A	R	Y	O	T	E
L							R		C
A	D	A	P	T			G		O
N			R				A		S
T		F	E	R	N		N		Y
A							I		S
E	V	O	L	V	E		S		T
			E				M		E
			G						M
F	O	S	S	I	L	S			