



FOR YOUR WORLD

# WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

We share our planet with millions of other species, and we all need each other to survive and thrive.



## HUMANS & NATURE

The planet's huge number of species and their habitats is called **biodiversity**. It gives us clean air, food, water and lots more. But the human population has grown quickly over the past 50 years, which means we are putting more pressure on land and water than ever before and nature is struggling to cope.

50%

Rainforests occupy only 7% of the planet's land surface, but are home to **half of its land-based species**.



## TREE OF LIFE

A single tree in the Amazon can provide a **home for up to 2,000 species** of birds, insects, fungi and other living species!



## TIGER RECOVERY

Wild tigers were in real trouble in 2010, when there were only **3,200** left in the wild. Thanks to amazing work by charities including WWF, wildlife rangers and caring communities in Asia, numbers have started to rise.

## EPIC REEFS

Reefs are called '**rainforests of the ocean**' as they are home to so many marine species. They also support human life by protecting coasts from waves and storms, and providing a habitat for countless fish and other species. Sadly, reefs are in danger due to increases in ocean temperature and acidity.



60%

Population sizes of fish, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles have **fallen by 60%** in 50 years (on average) due to habitat, agriculture and hunting.

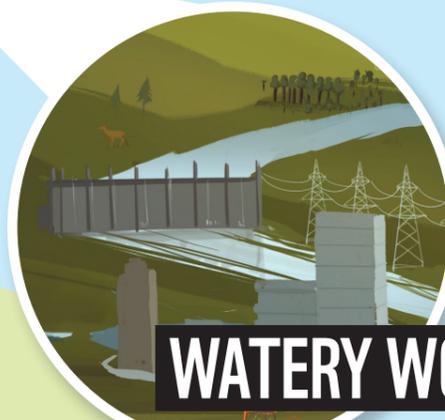
20%

Almost **20% of the Amazon** has been cut down in 50 years (for wood, and to clear space for farming, roads, mines and cities).



## WATERY WONDERS

Rivers, lakes and wetlands provide us with water and are home to **more than 10% of known animal species**. Sadly, pollution, over-use of water and dam-building is threatening these important habitats.



## BIODIVERSITY NEEDS OUR HELP!

There are lots of ways you and your group can help to increase biodiversity in your local area through A Million Hands. Ask your leader to find out more.