



The 17th Annual IGES Art Contest for Grades 2-4

Entries Due
Nov. 5!

The World's a Place of Living Things!

There are many different types of life on Earth. We call this biodiversity. There are many different species, from bacteria to insects to plants to animals. But individuals within a species are also different from one another. For example, people have different hair colors and eye colors. And there are some differences that cannot be seen, ones inside our cells that make us different from one another in other ways.

Biodiversity is not just the total of species in an ecosystem. It is also about how different they all are. Imagine all of the living things where you live and how different they are - people, bugs, birds, trees, fish, and frogs.

Scientists use biodiversity to help figure out how healthy an ecosystem is. The more diverse it is, the healthier it is. An ecosystem that is sufficiently diverse would be able to survive even if one of the species within it disappeared. If a species disappears in an ecosystem that does not have enough biodiversity, the ecosystem can collapse.

This year's contest invites young scientists and artists to explore biodiversity. Learn about all the forms of life in a particular place - maybe it's the Arctic or your backyard. Read stories and books. Watch videos. Then create a picture to show what you learned. Make it colorful! **And remember to enter your artwork in the 2012 IGES art contest!**

Entries due
Nov. 5, 2012

Download the entry form and see winners
announced on Nov. 20:
www.strategies.org/ArtContest

Did You Know?

- The world has 30,000 edible plants!
- Half the calories we eat come from just three edible plants: rice, wheat, and corn.
- Scientists discover 500-1,000 new species each year! (most of them are insects)
- Tropical rainforests are the areas of richest biodiversity on our planet. Tropical regions support two-thirds of the estimated 250,000 plant species in the world.



- According to some studies, 30% of all species will be extinct by 2050 if the current rate of biodiversity loss continues.
- There are about 13 million species - and only 1.75 million of them have been described, according to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Climate change also has a huge impact on biodiversity loss, in both polar and tropical regions.
- Plants and animals that are not native to an area and take over easily are one of the biggest threats to biodiversity.



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For the Teacher or Parent

Our annual science and art contest for grades 2-4 is designed to give teachers, parents, and children great flexibility in how they participate. This year's contest could be used to integrate reading, science, and geography, as well as art. The contest could also be used to introduce or conclude a regular topic or unit

Guidelines

- One entry per person: MUST be your original work (not a copy of a published art/illustration).
- Should be creative, bold, and colorful.
- Use pen, pencil, crayon, pastels, marking pens, and/or paint.
- Artwork MUST be on white stock and not exceed 16"x20". Artwork MUST NOT include a mat.
- Sign your artwork in the lower right corner.
- Provide a title on the entry form that describes the artwork. DO NOT put a title directly on the artwork. DO NOT use the contest title (The World is Full of Living Things) as your title.
- Tape a completed entry form to the back of the artwork.

Contest Rules

- The contest is sponsored annually by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). This contest is limited to U.S. students grades 2-4.
- Entries must be received by IGES no later than November 7, 2012. Artwork will be judged by a panel including artists, scientists, and IGES staff members. All artwork submitted becomes the property of IGES.
- Verification of winning artists' grade level will be required. Con-

test results will be posted on the IGES website (<http://www.strategies.org>) by November 21, 2012. The 1997-2011 winners can also be viewed on the site

2012 Art Contest Prizes

1st, 2nd & 3rd Place

- Artwork featured on the IGES website (<http://www.strategies.org/ArtContest>).
- Framed Color certificates.
- Visa Gift Card (1st place: \$100; 2nd Place: \$75; 3rd Place: \$50).
- IGES will retain the original artwork, but will provide two color prints: one for the student, and one for their school.

Honorable Mentions

- Color certificates
- IGES will retain the original artwork, but will provide two color prints: one for the student and one for their school.

Winning artwork and honorable mentions may be used in IGES promotional products, including, but not limited to calendars, notecards, and e-cards.

Certificate of Participation

Certificates of participation will be available online as PDF files for teachers or parents to personalize, download, and print. IGES will email teachers and parents the URL and password for creating and downloading the certificates.

IGES will ONLY return artwork for non-winning entries if return packaging and postage are included with the submission. Those entries will be returned by Feb. 1, 2013. IGES assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged artwork.

Guiding Questions

1. Go into your backyard and notice all the different plants and animals that are there. What do they look like? How are they alike? How are they different?

2. Imagine you're a scientist studying the ocean, rainforest, arctic, wetlands, grasslands, a forest, or your local park or own backyard. Maybe the area is near your home or maybe it is far

 away. What would the plants and animals in the area look like?

3. Think about a pet you might have - a dog, cat, horse, or maybe a bird. Dogs are all part of the same species, but they don't all look alike. There is a lot of diversity among them. How is your pet physically different from other members of the same species? How might your pet be different in ways you can't see?

4. Learn about an endangered species. What environment does it live in? What other plants or animals does it need to survive?

5. Imagine you work at a zoo and have to design a new home for a certain animal (maybe a polar bear, panda, or elephant). What are all the different things you need to include to make it like their home in the wild?

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