

## Activity 2

### Biodiversity Definitions

The vocabulary from Activity 1 on the scientific method is important for all your science lessons. Review the Activity 1 vocabulary, with emphasis on the words *analysis*, *classify*, *compare*, *data*, *hypothesis*, *measure*, *observation*, *prediction*, and *variable*.

**Adaptation** – Physical or behavioral changes in an individual or species that enhance its chances of survival in its habitat.

**Biodiversity** – A measurement of the number of different species of plants and animals that live in a specific ecosystem; the “variety of life.”

**Blackwater creek** – A flowing body of water that contains harmless “tea colored” chemicals called tannins that result from the decomposition of leaves.

**Community** – Different species of plants and animals living in the same ecosystem.

**Ecologist** – A scientist who studies the interactions of plants and animals with their environment.

**Ecosystem** – A specific geographic region characterized by the local landforms, the various plants and animals that live there, and the prevailing climatic conditions such as temperature and rainfall.

**Habitat** – The environment in which an animal or a plant lives or grows.

**Habitat management** – Monitoring and directing the growth and development of a specific ecosystem; example—“The Forest Service uses prescribed burns as a type of *habitat management* in pine plantations.”

**Invertebrates** – Animals lacking backbones or spinal columns, such as worms, mollusks, insects, and spiders.

**Landforms** – Regions or areas that are characterized by the presence or absence of certain features, such as forests, wetlands, deserts, mountains, and prairies.

**Migration** – The movement of organisms from one habitat to another based on changes in weather, seasons, and/or resources.

**Pine plantation** – Human-made and managed ecosystem that contains a single species of pine trees.

**Population** – The total number of individuals of a given species living in the same area.

**Random sampling** – Samples selected such that each member of a set has an equal chance of being chosen.

**Sample** – A portion, piece, or segment that is representative of the whole; an example of.

**Sampling** – The process of collecting a sample of something like water, soil, a plant, or animal.

**Sandhills** – A landform characterized by nutrient poor sandy soils located between the Upper Coastal Plain and Piedmont regions of North and South Carolina, formed when the Atlantic Ocean was much farther inland.

**Species** – Organisms of the same “kind” that are able to interbreed.

**Stream corridor** – The path that water travels through as it makes its way to larger bodies of water.

**Upper Coastal Plain** – A region of North and South Carolina where ancient coastal oceans once existed and left behind the upland sandhills of today.

**Watershed** – Area or region of land where all of the precipitation drains off into a common body of water such as a pond, creek, river, lake or ocean.