**Biodiversity card game**

Have fun with a friend and discover some interesting facts about other countries.

**What to do:**

* Cut out the cards.
* If possible laminate or cover in clear plastic.

**How to play:**

* Both players must read the cards and chat about the various national symbols and the variety of biodiversity found in each country. Here are some guidelines for the discussion:
  + How many countries share the same national symbols? Either in the form of its animal, plant, tree or flower.
  + Examine the coat of arms of each country – how are their symbols represented in it?
  + Look at the map of the world, how do the country’s national symbols relate to where in the world they are?
* Divide the cards among the two players.
* One player holds up the card, showing only the flag. They then ask questions about that country, for example, what is the national flower, what does it look like? What is the national animal? What symbols are on the coat of arms, and how do these link to the other symbols?
* This game tests children’s attention to detail and short term memory skills.
* As an extension, children can select one country and do further research on it.

**What is Biodiversity?**

Biodiversity is the variety of all living species on Earth and their relationships to each other. It includes:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| http://www.nrel.colostate.edu/projects/iboy/biomonth/biodgraphic/biofacts/helix.png | the diversity of **genes** within all living organisms. |
| http://www.nrel.colostate.edu/projects/iboy/biomonth/biodgraphic/biofacts/ladybug | the diversity of **species**. For example, morel, corn, rainbow trout, praying mantis and humans are all different species. |
| http://www.nrel.colostate.edu/projects/iboy/biomonth/biodgraphic/biofacts/leaf.gif | the diversity of **ecosystems** (coral reefs, prairies, forests, wetlands, etc.). |

We rely on biodiversity for many things, including food, medicine and clothing. Some of the ways biodiversity is lost are through:

* Habitat destruction
* Foreign species being introduced to a new habitat
* Pollution
* Population growth
* Over-use

As a result of human activities, ecosystem, species and genetic diversity is being destroyed faster than nature can create it. This damage threatens all of us. By working together, we can find ways to live without negatively affecting biodiversity. Without a change in our actions half of the world's species may be lost by 2100.

**What can you do to protect biodiversity?**

* **Learn more about biodiversity** – find out the names of the trees, birds, native plants and insects that share your neighbourhood.
* **Experience it** – go out and experience the wonders of life's diversity. Visit a local park or take a hike through a conservation area.
* **Do something** – get involved! Make changes to your lifestyle which reduces your impact on the planet.

**National symbols**

Each country has a set of national symbols that represent the country and provides it with a individual identity. Below are the symbols of some of the countries attending the Fifa World Cup. Learn more about them all.

**South Africa**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **National symbols** | | |
| South Africa's national coat of arms  **National coat of arms** | South Africa's national animal  **Animal**: springbok | South Africa's national bird  **Bird**: blue crane |
| South Africa's national fish  **Fish**: galjoen | South Africa's national tree  **Tree**: real yellowwood | South Africa's national flower  **Flower**: king protea |

**Argentina**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/ff/Coat_of_arms_of_Argentina.svg/180px-Coat_of_arms_of_Argentina.svg.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Coat_of_arms_of_Argentina.svg)National symbols** | | |
| **National coat of arms** | [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/2/28/Roundel_of_Argentina.svg/150px-Roundel_of_Argentina.svg.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Roundel_of_Argentina.svg)  The **Argentine Cockade** (a knot of ribbons, or circular/oval-shaped symbol)  [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/9/9d/Sol_de_Mayo-Bandera_de_Argentina.svg/120px-Sol_de_Mayo-Bandera_de_Argentina.svg.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sol_de_Mayo-Bandera_de_Argentina.svg) | [File:Vultur gryphus -Doué-la-Fontaine Zoo, France-8a.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/81/Vultur_gryphus_-Dou%C3%A9-la-Fontaine_Zoo,_France-8a.jpg)  **Bird**: Andean Condor |
| http://www.ceibostours.com/efotos/hornero-o-pillaja.jpg  **Bird**: Hornero  (brown bird with short tail and long bill) | The **Sun of May**, a representation of the Inca sun god Inti. It has 16 straight and 16 waved sunbeams. | [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/2/25/Erythrina_crista-galli.jpg/240px-Erythrina_crista-galli.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Erythrina_crista-galli.jpg)  **Flower**: Red flower from the Cockspur Coral Tree or Ceibo tree |

**Australia**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **National symbols** | | |
| File:Australian Coat of Arms.png  **National coat of arms** | See full size image  **Animal**: red kangaroo | [See full size image](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e2/Emu_-_melbourne_zoo.jpg)  **Bird**: emu |
| See full size image  **Gemstone:** Opal | See full size image  **Tree**: Golden Wattle | **Colours**: green and gold |

**Brazil**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **National symbols** | | |
| Coat of Arms of the Federative Republic of Brazil  **National coat of arms** | [See full size image](http://www.animalpicturesarchive.com/ArchOLD-6/1165284902.jpg)  **Animal**: Jaguar | [See full size image](http://www.wikiwak.com/image/Turdus-rufiventris.jpg)  **Bird**:  Rufous-bellied Thrush |
| http://farm4.static.flickr.com/3519/3880246186_f6c83cdefc_o.jpg  **Tree**: Ipês, Pau Brasil | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/5/50/1reallIIback_2.jpg  The **Efígie da República** (Effigy of the Republic) is an image of a young woman wearing a crown of bay leaves. | |

**Chile**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **National symbols** | |
| File:Coat of arms of Chile.svg  **National coat of arms** | http://www.terra-luna.cl/portal/images/stories/progs/Huemul.JPG  **Animal**: huemul |
| File:Vultur gryphus -Doué-la-Fontaine Zoo, France-8a.jpg  **Bird**: Andean Condor | http://image03.webshots.com/3/4/47/57/21444757hRfDOdHXry_fs.jpg  **Flower**: Copihue |

**England**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **National symbols** | |
| [File:England COA.svg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/28/England_COA.svg)  **National coat of arms** | [National Animal: Lion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Lion_waiting_in_Nambia.jpg)  **Animal**: lion |
| http://celticmysteryschool.com/oak.JPG  **Tree**: oak | http://www.stolaf.edu/people/evans/Images/rose.jpg  **Flower**: rose |

**France**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **National symbols** | |
| http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/b7/Armoiries_r%C3%A9publique_fran%C3%A7aise.svg/2000px-Armoiries_r%C3%A9publique_fran%C3%A7aise.svg.png  **National emblem** | **Bird**: Gallic rooster |
| http://www.shee-eire.com/Herbs,Trees&Fungi/Trees/Yew/Photos/yew-003.jpg  **Tree**: yew | **http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/2/29/H%C3%A9raldique_meuble_Fleur_de_lys_liss%C3%A9e.svg/2000px-H%C3%A9raldique_meuble_Fleur_de_lys_liss%C3%A9e.svg.png**  **Flower**: stylised lily (fleur-de-lis) |

**Germany**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **National symbols** | |
| [File:Coat of Arms of Germany.svg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/80/Coat_of_Arms_of_Germany.svg)  **National coat of arms** | http://www.birdingintaiwan.org/gallery/wen-hsin/Black%20Eagle.jpg  **Bird**: eagle |
| http://celticmysteryschool.com/oak.JPG  **Tree**: oak | http://somethingslovely.files.wordpress.com/2009/08/bachelorsbutton.jpg  **Flower**: blue cornflower |

**Honduras**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **National symbols** | |
| [File:Coat of arms of Honduras.svg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/81/Coat_of_arms_of_Honduras.svg)  **National coat of arms** | Venado Cola Blanca  **Animal**: white-tailed deer |
| Pino - Arbol Nacional  **Tree**: Honduras pine | Orquidea - Flor Nacional  **Flower**: orchid |

**Italy**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **National symbols** | |
| [File:Italy-Emblem.svg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6b/Italy-Emblem.svg)  **National coat of arms** | http://farm2.static.flickr.com/1376/1459217379_a2b2fd0396_o.jpg  **Animal**: Italian wolf |
| http://englishinteractive.net/IMAGES/E/elm.jpg  **Tree**: elm | http://randallscherrer.com/images/BigWhiteLilyInVase.jpghttp://edubuzz.org/blogs/theburgh/files/2009/11/poppy2.jpg  **Flower**: Poppy or White Lily |

**Japan**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **National symbols** | | |
| [File:Imperial Seal of Japan.svg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/37/Imperial_Seal_of_Japan.svg)  **Imperial seal** | | http://farm1.static.flickr.com/50/113462870_d1430c06be_o.jpg  **Bird**: Japanese pheasant |
| http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/73/3koi.jpg  **Fish**: Koi | [File:Jhomonsugi in Yaku Island Japan 001.JPG](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b8/Jhomonsugi_in_Yaku_Island_Japan_001.JPG)  **Tree**: Sugi (Japanese Cedar) | [File:Chrysanthemum sp.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b3/Chrysanthemum_sp.jpg)  **Flower**: Chrysanthemum |

**Mexico**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **National symbols** | | |
| [File:Coat of arms of Mexico.svg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2a/Coat_of_arms_of_Mexico.svg)  **National coat of arms** | [File:Degaen.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b8/Degaen.jpg)  **Animal**: Chihuahua | [File:GoldenEagle-Nova.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/91/GoldenEagle-Nova.jpg)  **Bird**: golden eagle |
| [File:Vaquita.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/eb/Vaquita.jpg)  **Marine mammal**: vaquita (porpoise) | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c2/Bald_Cypress_Tree_and_Trunk_2000px.jpg  **Tree**:  cypress | [File:Dahlia pinnata.JPG](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/fc/Dahlia_pinnata.JPG)  **Flower**: Dahlia pinnata |

**New Zealand**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **File:Coat of Arms of New Zealand.svgNational symbols** | |
| **National coat of arms** | http://www.eurekalert.org/multimedia/pub/web/7307_web.jpg  **Bird**: kiwi |
| http://www.nztramping.com/NZTrampingBlog/images/Silver-fern.jpg  **Plant**: Silver Fern | http://farm3.static.flickr.com/2193/1805979700_cb81895c6f.jpg  **Flower**: Kowhai |

**Portugal**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **National symbols** | |
| [File:Coat of arms of Portugal.svg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/15/Coat_of_arms_of_Portugal.svg)  **National coat of arms** | [File:Coq barcelos.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2b/Coq_barcelos.jpg)  **Bird**: barcelos cock |
| [File:PRT008.JPG](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/de/PRT008.JPG)  **Efígie da República** is represented as a young woman wearing the phrygian cap | http://www.wellgrowhorti.com/Pictures/Landscape%20Plants/Shrubs/Web%20Pictures1/P/Plectranthus%20Ecklonii%20Mona%20Lavender.jpg  **Flower**: lavender |

**Serbia**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **National symbols** | | |
| [File:Coat of arms of Serbia.svg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/96/Coat_of_arms_of_Serbia.svg)  **National coat of arms** | http://animalpicturesarchive.com/ArchOLD-6/1168102155.jpg  **Animal**: wolf | http://image14.webshots.com/15/5/5/41/340450541IynwWI_fs.jpg  **Bird**: Serbian eagle |
| [File:Picea omorika1.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/ce/Picea_omorika1.jpg)  **Tree**: Serbian spruce | [File:Plum on tree02.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/7b/Plum_on_tree02.jpg)  **Plant**: plum | |

**Uruguay**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **National symbols** | |
| [File:Coat of arms of Uruguay.svg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/91/Coat_of_arms_of_Uruguay.svg)  **National coat of arms** | http://lh6.ggpht.com/_6uoU-_JTRsM/SIj4y6bKVmI/AAAAAAAAAYY/4cHg99KyQLM/IMG_2384+Rufous+Hornero.jpg  **Bird**: Rufous Hornero |
| [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/9/92/Sol_de_Mayo-Bandera_de_Uruguay.svg/120px-Sol_de_Mayo-Bandera_de_Uruguay.svg.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sol_de_Mayo-Bandera_de_Uruguay.svg)  The **Sun of May**, a representation of the Inca sun god Inti. | [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/2/25/Erythrina_crista-galli.jpg/240px-Erythrina_crista-galli.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Erythrina_crista-galli.jpg)  **Flower**: Red flower from the Cockspur Coral Tree or Ceibo tree |

**United States of America**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **National symbols** | |
| File:US-GreatSeal-Obverse.svg  **Great seal** | File:Haliaeetus leucocephalus -Skagit valley-8-2c.jpg  **Bird**: bald eagle |
| [File:Quercus robur.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/af/Quercus_robur.jpg)  **Tree**:  oak | [File:Bandel Rose.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/21/Bandel_Rose.jpg)  **Flower**: rose |