



Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Hong Kong Country Parks Education Kit for Secondary Schools

Biodiversity and Evolution (1)

Topics covered:

- Diversity of life forms

Background information:

A wide variety of life forms is called biodiversity. And the place where an organism lives is called its habitat: for example, woodlands and wetlands. Studying biodiversity is surprisingly convenient in Hong Kong.

Although renowned as a compact urban centre, Hong Kong has over 800 kilometres of rugged coastline, lots of mountain ranges and country parks that covering about 40% of land area. So, not surprisingly, it is home to an impressive range of wildlife. Straddling the transition zone between the tropics and the temperate region, its biodiversity is greater than that usually found in such a small area. Hong Kong has almost 3,000 varieties of flowering plants, including 120 orchids and over 300 native tree species, 90 bird species, 50 species of mammals, 160 species of freshwater fish, 100 species of amphibian and reptiles and more than 2,000 moth, 115 dragonfly and 240 butterfly species.

Teaching objective

To enable students to appreciate the existence of various life forms in the wild, and the different ways through which organisms adapt to their habitats.

Suggested study mode

Classroom activity

Suggested procedures

1. Show the advertisement Homepage of 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (from <http://www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/>) to arouse students' interest in and awareness of the concept of biodiversity worldwide.
2. Have students do [Worksheet BIO-1](#). They are provided with two eco-maps showing the distribution of dragonflies and terrestrial habitats of Hong Kong. Using the two maps, with the help of textbook, have them complete [Worksheet BIO-1](#), Parts A and B.
3. Go to [Worksheet BIO-2](#). Book the computer room to help students complete this worksheet. Go to the AFCD database to search for the necessary information to complete the boxes in the worksheet. Show the students pictures of birds with different beak shapes. Ask them to describe the shape and suggest the function of each beak.