

Biodiversity Matters

An activity of "Singapore's green spaces through the ages"

Did you know that wild tigers once roamed the forests of Singapore? To find out what happened to them, read "Singapore's green spaces through the ages" (page 14–15, *What's Up* July 2021). Work in pairs on this activity.

- Browse through these online articles:
 "What Is Biodiversity?"ⁱ > <https://tinyurl.com/nfkids01>.
 "Wild News on Wild Singapore"ⁱⁱ > <https://tinyurl.com/nfkids>
- The table below lists statements on **biodiversity**. Based on your readings, indicate if the statements are True (T) or False (F) by circling the right answer.

	Biodiversity Statements	T/F
1	Biodiversity does not include organisms such as microbes and fungi.	T / F
2	Singapore has lost a large percentage of the island's flora and fauna in the last 200 years.	T / F
3	Since the 1800s, no species of plants or animals has vanished from Singapore.	T / F
4	Large-scale deforestation for agriculture and rapid urban development resulted in the loss of biodiversity here.	T / F
5	Over-hunting and fishing and the heavy shelling of nature reserves during World War II have played a role in the loss of biodiversity of Singapore.	T / F
6	The natural habitats of the Malayan tiger, the white-bellied woodpecker, the banded leaf monkey, and the cream-coloured giant squirrel have been left untouched in Singapore through the ages.	T / F
7	The only ways to prevent tigers from attacking people are by using tiger traps and by hunting them down.	T / F
8	Global biodiversity is invaluable. It provides people with food and medicine, supports pollination, seed dispersal, climate regulation, water purification, nutrient recycling, and helps control agricultural pests.	T / F
9	Green spaces in our Garden City help people to de-stress. They cool our environment, provide space for exercise, and are great places to chill out. People recover faster from illness when they have views of nature and greenery.	T / F
10	The future of Singapore's biodiversity would have been bleaker if not for the ban on poaching and the preserving of habitats such as Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, and Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve.	T / F
11	Our biodiversity conservation efforts may not prevent the extinction of certain threatened species in Singapore, as it may come too late.	T / F
12	The disappearance of many species of plants and animals worldwide is an indication of something gone dangerously wrong.	T / F

- Share your answers, with reasons, with your whole class.

ⁱ Web source: American Museum of Biodiversity - <https://www.amnh.org/research/center-for-biodiversity-conservation>

ⁱⁱ Web source: Wild Singapore - <http://www.wildsingapore.com/news>