

## Unit 6: BioBlitz

**Participant:** That's so cool.

**Participant:** Let me see.

**Participant:** ... microscope.

**John Francis:** These BioBlitzes help us awaken the public, especially those in cities, to nature in their own backyard.

**Participant:** That's the first time I've ever seen a frog up that close.

**Participant:** Yeah, right!

**Participant:** I've seen them at the aquarium but ...

**Participant:** I ... these guys are called chorus frogs sometimes ...

**Narrator:** These students and scientists are taking part in a BioBlitz to create an inventory of the area.

**John Francis:** And in some cases, we're finding absolutely new things that the park service didn't realize existed in this park.

**Narrator:** This BioBlitz is taking place in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in California. The team of around 9,000 volunteers, led by 320 scientists, is helping to find and identify all the different plant and animal species in the park. They find different fish, birds, and tiny insects. The volunteers also work through the night to find creatures that only come out after it's dark. Each new species must be recorded and classified.

**John Johnson:** People are so excited to be out here. The weather doesn't matter—it was beautiful yesterday and we've seen such an incredible diversity of plants and animals—oh, nothing could be better.

**Narrator:** The team continues to work in the rain. They take pictures and film videos, and immediately post these online for other people to see.

**Participant:** This is really, really cool.

**John Francis:** We're telling people that, you know, they should take a look where they are and start enjoying nature and discovering it.

**Narrator:** After the BioBlitz ends, the information gathered is shared at a festival for people who live in nearby communities. They learn about the species that were found in the area so that they, too, can help protect these amazing plants and animals.

**Presenter:** So, the grand total for the number of species that we found in this BioBlitz was 2,304.