

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Nature's Gift: The Benefits of Biodiversity

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Ecosystem services are the benefits provided by ecosystems to humans. An example of an ecosystem service is pollination, where bees and other pollinators transfer pollen between flowers, enabling the fertilization of plants and the production of fruits, vegetables, and seeds.
2. Biodiversity inspires innovation by providing solutions to complex problems found in nature. For example, scientists have developed life-saving medicines derived from plants, inspired by their incredible adaptations and chemical compounds.
3. Indigenous peoples contribute to the preservation of biodiversity through their traditional knowledge and practices, which sustain both communities and ecosystems. This includes practices like sustainable agriculture, habitat management, and conservation techniques passed down through generations.
4. Spending time in nature can improve human well-being and quality of life by reducing stress, improving mental health, and fostering a sense of connection and belonging. Nature has a calming effect on the mind and body, promoting relaxation and rejuvenation. Additionally, spending time in natural environments encourages physical activity and outdoor recreation, which are important for overall health and well-being.

