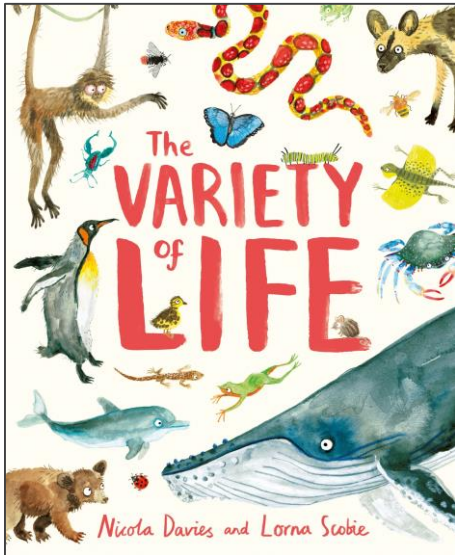


The Big Topic: Conservation



The Variety of Life by Nicola Davies and Lorna Scobie

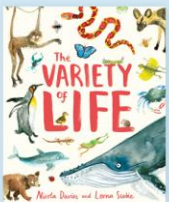
A glorious celebration of the animal kingdom by non-fiction specialist Nicola Davies, illustrated by Lorna Scobie, creators of the beautiful *The Variety of Life*.

There is something to delight on every page with fascinating facts and figures. This exquisite book will encourage children to treasure the world's biodiversity and help to stop it slipping away.

9781444931198 £14.99

Classroom ideas

- Take a close look at the word VARIETY and discover all the linked words: variety, vary, varied, variation, various. Discuss the word classes and the parts of each word (root/prefix/suffix).
- Discover synonyms for the words VARIETY and LIFE – such as: diversity, assortment, collection, array, range, medley, mixture and selection; creation, wildlife, creatures, beings, flora and fauna. Try them out together to create alternative titles for the book.
- Take any page. What is the same? What is different? Think scientifically and identify what makes animals part of this group. Try creating a species that matches the group, but has its own difference.
- Take an animal with lots species, such as ducks. Investigate where each species is found. Plot them on a world map. Investigate further to discover how they are adapted to their habitat.
- Search out the starred creatures. Find out why they are endangered and what can be done to stop them becoming extinct. Learn about the IUCN Red List.
- Be inspired by Lorna Scobie's excellent illustrations. Get the watercolours out and getting painting. Focus on drawing and observational skills first, then move on to adding colour and detail with paint.
- Take a close look at the word VARIETY and discover all the linked words: variety, vary, varied, variation, various. Discuss the word classes and the parts of each word (root/prefix/suffix).



The Big Topic: Conservation

- Discover synonyms for the words VARIETY and LIFE – such as: diversity, assortment, collection, array, range, medley, mixture and selection; creation, wildlife, creatures, beings, flora and fauna. Try them out together to create alternative titles for the book.
- Take any page. What is the same? What is different? Think scientifically and identify what makes animals part of this group. Try creating a species that matches the group, but has its own difference.
- Take an animal with lots species, such as ducks. Investigate where each species is found. Plot them on a world map. Investigate further to discover how they are adapted to their habitat.
- Search out the starred creatures. Find out why they are endangered and what can be done to stop them becoming extinct. Learn about the IUCN Red List.
- Be inspired by Lorna Scobie’s excellent illustrations. Get the watercolours out and getting painting. Focus on drawing and observational skills first, then move on to adding colour and detail with paint.
- Numbers, numbers, numbers – check out the number of species. Which animal group has the most and which has the least? Or, when you read for the first time, cover the number of species with a post it note. Can children guess how many species there are? Who is the closest? What makes them think there are that many?
- Create a class book of...(insert animal/plant here eg dolphins, whales or trees). Write the introduction as a shared write together as a class, then give each child a species to draw and write about.
- Hold a class discussion – what would it be like if there was just one type of dog/cat/butterfly? Is variety better?
- Sort the creatures into vertebrates, invertebrates.
- If you are learning about life cycles, search the book for adult and young pairs. Compare and look for similarities and differences.
- Celebrate World Wildlife Day on 3rd March 2019. <http://wildlifeday.org/> with this year’s theme ‘Life below water: for people and planet. Read about the whale, dolphin, shark and crab species.

Links with the cross-curricular lesson ideas:

Year 1 and 2: Take a look at the Sharks page and discover all the species shown.

Year 3 and 4: Take a look at the Whales and Dolphins pages and discover all the species shown.

Year 5 and 6: Look through the pages and search for creatures plastic pollution might affect.

