



*A project of the Chicago Botanic Garden*

## **BUDBURST FOR FAMILIES**

Spending Time with Family and Plant Friends!

**Title:** Backyard BioBlitz

**Age Group:** 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **Purpose:**

- **Why?** You don't know what's there until you try to find out. This activity challenges kids to notice the biodiversity in their own environment, exercising a host of STEM practices while making them more aware of their surroundings.
- **How?** Explore your backyard and closely observe plants.
- **What?** Fun way to learn to identify plants and recognize the great variety of plants (biodiversity), even in your own yard.

### **Steps:**

1. Create a map of your yard
2. Choose a small section of your yard to explore closely
3. Gather supplies: notebook or paper, pencil, magnifying glass, plastic bags or small jars for samples
4. Get outside and start counting different plants
5. Draw pictures, take photos, or collect samples
6. As a family, review what you found and use a field guide or online resource to determine what species you've discovered
7. Discuss! What surprised you? Did you think you would find more or fewer different species? Would you have found the same kinds of plants in a different part of the yard? Why or why not? On another day choose a different part of the yard and check it out!

If you want to learn more go here: <https://budburst.org/getting-started>