

Biodiversity in Texas

Texas has an amazing range of wild places, plants and animals. With Gulf and fresh waters, hills and plains, mountains and deserts – the state is home to more than 35,000 species of animals and plants. In the busiest city park and the most secluded cave there are individual species, each adapted to that specific habitat. Every organism, from the tiny cave spider to the bobcat, is part of the web of life. This diversity of life, or biodiversity, is the result of millions of years of evolution and natural processes on Earth.

Today, while many species in Texas are known, scientists think that more have yet to be identified. At the Texas Memorial Museum scientists and curators study and document a variety of species of fish, reptiles, amphibians, insects, mammals and microorganisms. They study how one species impacts another, and how different species relate to their habitats or environments. The Museum's challenge is to learn about the roles all species play in the fascinating web of life.

As you explore the galleries of the Biodiversity Discovery Hall, think about the species you see. Why are there so many different types of toads in Texas? By studying Texas' natural world, and our place in it, we learn how to preserve our wild places, plants and animals for the future.