

Video Transcript: Biocubes – A World in One Cubic Foot

- Speaker 1: Years ago, I was interested in this idea of how much life lives in a small place, to try and explore how much life you can find in one cubic foot.
- Speaker 1: How much life do you think you can find in this? And this is one cubic foot, and it's this size for kind of a reason. It fits in your lap, put your arms around it, this is a personal size sample.
- Speaker 2: Do it in your backyard, you can do it in a playground, you can do it anywhere.
- Speaker 3: We're going construct, slowly over time, a tapestry of all the living things in the world. And the more Biocubes we study, the higher the percentage of life studied on the planet.
- Speaker 2: So, our challenge is to try and find a place that we can put this cube that we can make observations, and then we can capture all the animals in that space. Because then, that can be done by other people, by other classes, by other citizen scientists, or by anybody else anywhere in the world, because then we can compare it from place to place. What we try to do is try to find a place where you have the most variety to capture within a cube.
- Speaker 7: Wow. What do people think about that site?
- Group: Yeah. Perfect.
- Speaker 7: Why does that work?
- Speaker 5: It has plants, water, and air.
- Speaker 7: It has plants, water, and air.
- Speaker 1: You wouldn't think there's very much going on in this small space, but I think what we're going to find that there's a huge amount of stuff going on.
- Speaker 8: This is called purple nettle grass.
- Speaker 9: Put it all in there, Don.
- Speaker 10: This is the greenside. That's just a rock bass.
- Speaker 12: There's a warmouth.
- Speaker 3: A blotched chub
- Speaker 1: Yeah, that is a huge [indistinct].

Speaker 3: You got boops.

Speaker 8: Five types of grass.

Speaker 13: We got a leech.

Speaker 14: Arthropod.

Speaker 8: And three types of different bugs.

Speaker 2: He's a damselfly.

Speaker 1: A baby dragonhunter.

Speaker 1: So, just imagine how many creatures you might find if you look closely at a coral reef, in Central Park, about 100 feet up in a tree, on top of Table Mountain above Cape Town, under the Golden Gate Bridge, and in a river in Tennessee.

Speaker 1: You can slowly start piecing together the diversity of an ecosystem from its component pieces. That's what Biocube is about.

Speaker 9: I learned that you shouldn't just walk past a pond, you should look in it, because there's so many just amazing little bugs, and creatures, and pieces of plankton, and all that good stuff in there, that it's just mind boggling.