



iNaturalist Web Quest

Instructions: Log on to iNaturalist and follow the prompts in order to answer a series of questions for this Web Quest. Accurately responding to the questions below will demonstrate your ability to navigate iNaturalist and use all of its features.

Login: <https://www.inaturalist.org/login>

From your iNaturalist home screen, click on the “explore” tab at the top of the page.

1. How many total observations have been made on iNaturalist?

Zoom in until only the Hawaiian islands are in the map view. Click “Redo search in map.”

2. How many total species have been observed in the Hawaiian Islands?

Click on the “species” tab.

3. What species has the most observations in the Hawaiian Islands?

Click on the “explore” tab again at the top of the page and type “California Pitcher Plant (*Darlingtonia Californica*) into the “species” search box. A dropdown box will appear. Click the “View” link, which will take you to the California Pitcher Plant species page.

4. In what month are the most observations made for California Pitcher Plant?
5. What is the distribution of the California Pitcher Plant?
6. Are there any observations of the California Pitcher Plant that seem out of place? If so, look into the outlier and tell me how the plant got there.
7. Describe the habitat where you would likely find the California Pitcher Plant (Hint: Read the “About” section).

Click on the “explore” tab again at the top of the page and type “Steller’s Jay.” Explore the map view.

8. Where are the highest concentrations of Steller’s Jay observations clustering?
9. What are two or three reasons Steller’s Jay populations may be denser in these areas?

Hover over the “Community” tab at the top of the page. A dropdown menu will appear. Click on “Projects.” In the Search box, type “Redwood National Park.” Three projects will appear. Click on the “NPS – Redwood National Park” project.

10. What are the top three species observed by iNaturalist users at Redwood National Park?
11. What Community scientist has made the most observations at Redwood National Park?
12. Explore the “map” view. What species is the most northern observation in RNP? Who made the observation for the most northern observation?

Return to the Redwood National Park Project Page. Click “Overview.” Click on the green “Stats” button.

13. How many Observations have been made at Redwood National Park?
14. What percentage of Observations are “research grade?” (Hint: Hover over the circle graph).
15. How many Identifications have been made at Redwood National Park?
16. What is the difference between Observations and Identifications?
17. What taxa has the most observations?

Go back to Redwood National Park homepage. Click “Observations” and then “Identify”

18. Choose one unidentified observation to try and identify using field guides from the classroom.

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19. Explore the organisms observed near our project location. What are three species you may likely find at our project site? (This may be your school grounds, a local park, student’s backyards, or a field trip location)
20. What are three additional interesting features of iNaturalist?



iNaturalist Web Quest ANSWER KEY

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Login: <https://www.inaturalist.org/login>

From your iNaturalist home screen, click on the “explore” tab at the top of the page.

1. How many total observations have been made on iNaturalist?

A: This number changes daily. You will need to check it the day you assign the Web Quest.

Zoom in until only the Hawaiian islands are in the map view. Click “Redo search in map.”

2. How many total species have been observed in the Hawaiian Islands?

A: This number changes daily. You will need to check it the day you assign the Web Quest.

Click on the “species” tab.

3. What species has the most observations in the Hawaiian Islands?

A: As of February 2021, the Green Sea Turtle had the most observations (This could change).

Click on the “explore” tab again at the top of the page and type “California Pitcher Plant (*Darlingtonia Californica*)” into the “species” search box. A dropdown box will appear. Click the “View” link, which will take you to the California Pitcher Plant species page.

4. In what month are the most observations made for California Pitcher Plant?

A: July

5. What is the distribution of the California Pitcher Plant?

A: Northern California and coastal Oregon

6. Are there any observations of the California Pitcher Plant that seem out of place? If so, look into the outlier and tell me how the plant got there.

A: There is one observation on Vancouver Island, Canada. In the comments section someone commented “This was an intentional introduction from seed at the site.”

7. Describe the habitat where you would likely find the California Pitcher Plant (Hint: Read the “About” section).

A: It is native to Northern California and Oregon growing in bogs and seeps with cold running water.

Click on the “explore” tab again at the top of the page and type “Steller’s Jay.” Explore the map view.

8. Where are the highest concentrations of Steller’s Jay observations clustering?

A: The highest concentrations cluster in urban centers such as Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego.

9. What are two or three reasons Steller’s Jay populations may be denser in these areas?

A: Steller’s Jay populations may actually be denser in urban areas because they are attracted to backyard bird feeders and areas where people picnic. A second possibility is that urban centers have higher populations of people using iNaturalist. There may actually be higher concentrations of Steller’s Jays outside of urban centers that are not being reported.

Hover over the “Community” tab at the top of the page. A dropdown menu will appear. Click on “Projects.” In the Search box, type “Redwood National Park.” Three projects will appear. Click on the “NPS – Redwood National Park” project.

10. What are the top three species observed by iNaturalist users at Redwood National Park?

A: This may change, but as of February 2021, the top three species observed by iNaturalist users in Redwood National Park were the Elk, Coast Redwood, and Pacific Banana Slug.

11. What Community scientist has made the most observations at Redwood National Park?

A: This may change, but as of February 2021, Nelruzam was the Community scientist with the most observations at Redwood National Park.

12. Explore the “map” view. What species is the most northern observation in Redwood National Park? Who made the observation for the most northern observation?

A: This may change, but as of February 2021, Hedgenettles was the most northern observation in Redwood National Park. The observation was made by the user Sherrr on June 28, 2019.

Return to the Redwood National Park Project Page. Click “Overview.” Click on the green “Stats” button.

13. How many Observations have been made at Redwood National Park?

A: This number changes daily. You will need to check it the day you assign the Web Quest. As of February 2021, there was a total of 17,486 observations at Redwood National Park.

14. What percentage of Observations are “research grade?” (Hint: Hover over the circle graph).

A: This number changes daily. You will need to check it the day you assign the Web Quest. As of February 2021 it was 59.4%

15. How many Identifications have been made at Redwood National Park?

A: This number changes daily. You will need to check it the day you assign the Web Quest. As of February 2021, there were 30, 678 identifications.

16. What is the difference between Observations and Identifications?

A: An “Observation” is something someone has observed. It may or may not have been “identified” yet.

An “Identification” is an assessment of the type of animal, plant, or other organism that was observed. There are several types of identifications: “Leading,” “Improving,” “Supporting” and “Maverick.” As the community helps identify observations, the ID climbs from “leading” to “improving” to “supporting.” If the community disagrees with an identification, it is labeled “maverick.”

Observations become “research grade” when the community agrees on species-level identification or lower, i.e. when more than 2/3 of identifiers agree on a taxon.

17. What taxa has the most observations?

A: #1 taxa is plants. #2 taxa is fungi (this could change).

Go back to Redwood National Park homepage. Click “Observations” and then “Identify”

18. Choose one unidentified observation to try and identify using field guides from the classroom.

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19. Explore the organisms observed near our project location. What are three species you may likely find at our project site? (This may be your school grounds, a local park, student’s backyards, or a field trip location)

20. What are three additional interesting features of iNaturalist?