

## Day 1: An introduction to iNaturalist

**Overview:** In the classroom students will explore iNaturalist program, learn what Community science is and how they can participate, and use iNaturalist to explore species diversity around the world.

**Goal:** After this guided exploration of iNaturalist, students will be able to navigate the Community science platform, identify at least 3 species found at Redwood National Park, and practice using field guides to help other Community scientists identify their observations.

### Set-up, Preparation, & Materials:

- What is iNaturalist and Community science? video:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoES-J\\_IYcc&ab\\_channel=TheCrowd%26TheCloud](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoES-J_IYcc&ab_channel=TheCrowd%26TheCloud)
- iNaturalist Teacher's Guide:  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/teacher's+guide>
- Teachers will need to set up an account and become familiar with iNaturalist and all of its functions prior to using this curriculum. Please read the Teacher Guide prior to unit planning.
  - A great resource to learn how to manage iNaturalist projects can be found at:  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/managing-projects#traditional>
  - We recommend creating a **Collection Project**.  
**Collection Project:** Creates your own URL, unique banner and icon, a journal to communicate with project followers. When creating a Collection Project, you choose the parameters that must be met for observations to end up in your Collection Project Data. You won't be able to choose a specific place (like a school yard) for your project unless the place already exists on iNaturalist, (such as a national park).  
\*\*You can check a box "Project Members Only" so that your project only includes observations made by users who have joined your project (i.e. your student's accounts).  
**Umbrella Project:** Use if you want to collate, compare, or promote a set of existing projects. You can compare and contrast observations from different collection projects.

- Decide whether to have one class account, or have students all create individual accounts (must be 13+ years old to have individual accounts). **We recommend creating one class account and having the teachers take and upload photos for the students.**
- Find helpful iNaturalist video tutorials that can be shared with students at:  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/video+tutorials>

### **Procedure:**

- Make sure students have watched the iNaturalist video tutorials prior to class.
- Ask students what they think “Community science” is
- Define Community Science
- Show the four minute video “The Crowd and The Cloud.”
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoES-J\\_IYcc&ab\\_channel=TheCrowd%26TheCloud](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoES-J_IYcc&ab_channel=TheCrowd%26TheCloud)
- Introduce students to iNaturalist by projecting the website and showing some basic features.
- Discuss what makes a good observation (photos, not documenting cultivated species).
- Have students log on to iNaturalist
  - Option 1: Log in using a classroom account set up by teacher (recommended)
  - Option 2: Create student accounts
- Assign iNaturalist Web Quest (Below) for students to work on for remainder of class.

Discuss where you will be making observations with your students. Will you be on your school grounds? A local park? Will you expect your students to explore their backyards? Will you be taking field trips to more distant locations? Have students explore observations made by the iNaturalist community near your classroom field site so they can make predictions about what species they may encounter while in the field.