

## Day 2: iNaturalist Field Day

**Overview:** Students will use iNaturalist to explore biodiversity in their community.

**Goal:** To explore biodiversity by identifying habitat types, adding observations to iNaturalist, identifying species from different taxa, and predicting species that might be found in the region.

### Set-up & Materials:

- Instructor smart phone/tablet (recommended)
  - If you feel comfortable having each group take their own photos and then emailing them to you, that is also an option but may be more complicated for you, the instructor.
- Field Guides
- Hand lenses
- Binoculars
- Field worksheet or journal

### Procedure:

- Review what Community science is with students
  - Ask for examples of when Community science data has been used to do something important.
- Assign students into groups of 3 or 4. Each student will be assigned a specific role within their group:
  1. Data recorder
  2. Illustrator
  3. Photographer (using instructors phone/camera)
  4. Field Guide/identifier
- Pass out data sheets to each group
- Discuss the taxa you will be searching for today (plants, insects, birds, mammals, etc.)
- Discuss the field site you will be visiting for class
  - What habitat type is it and how do you know?
- Visit field site and allow students time to look for organisms that fall under that day's focal taxa.
- When a group finds an organism they want to record, have them complete their data sheet (see below).

- We recommend having students find the instructor when they are ready to photograph their organism. The instructor can allow students to use the class phone/tablet to take the photos, but under the instructor's supervision. This will ensure photos are high quality and organized in a way that will make it easy for the instructor to match photos with data sheets and upload accurate information to iNaturalist once back in the classroom.
- Have students complete worksheet (see below) for 1-3 species they found in the field.
- Back in the Classroom
  - Upload any photos of organisms from the day to class Collection Project on iNaturalist
  - Make sure as much information is recorded into the observation and correct (taxa, date/time, location)
  - Be sure to indicate if any of the species were "cultivated" by checking the box.
  - Using field guides, have each group try to identify one unknown species from another group.
- Graphing Exercise
  - Have students graph the class data by Kingdom (see graphing worksheet below). As a class login to iNaturalist and download your class data (see video tutorial). Graph together as a class or print copies of the data for students to reference.
- Extensions
  - Create a classroom field guide for your school, park, neighborhood, or field trip location site using photos taken throughout the iNaturalist unit.
  - Encourage students to spend time on iNaturalist outside of school.
  - Research an organism you observed and write a report, poem, blog post, or create art about your organism.