

Day 3: iNaturalist Community Bioblitz

Overview: Students will use iNaturalist to host a school yard or community bioblitz.

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, while leading a community event that teaches others to do the same.

Set-up & Materials:

- iNaturalist how to organize a bioblitz guide:
<https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/bioblitz+guide>
- Recruit observers
- Recruit identifiers
- Conduct a bioblitz rehearsal:
<https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/rehearsal%252bbioblitz>
- Field materials:
 - Smart Phones/tablets
- Post bioblitz materials:
 - Reporting strategy: a way to tally and report results to participants.

Procedure:

What is a Bioblitz? A BioBlitz is a short (often 24 hours or less) inventory of living organisms found within a specified geographic area. A BioBlitz may be conducted on all organisms or confined to a single taxonomic group or habitat.

- Prior to BioBlitz
 - Send out information on how to create an account and a link to the bioblitz project page.
 - The Bioblitz project page is set up exactly like you set up a Collection Project except you specify/limit the date and times you accept observations.
 - Have students work on recruiting family and friends to participate.
 - Try to involve community organizations, businesses, governmental employees, etc.

- Ask students to practice using iNaturalist at home with family and friends who will be participating so everyone is familiar with the platform.
- On BioBlitz day
 - Before Bioblitz begins:
 - Review what Community science is with participants.
 - Ask for examples of when Community science data has been used to do something important. How will this bioblitz data be used?
 - Discuss the parameters for your bioblitz (start/end time, bioblitz location boundaries, etc.)
 - Answer any last minute questions
 - During bioblitz:
 - Be available for questions.
- Post Bioblitz
 - Have a tally party
 - Help people submit observations if they have photos they haven't uploaded yet.
 - Have each group share a special observation from their day
- Back in the Classroom/extensions
 - Review bioblitz data together as a class
 - Have students be identifiers, and help recruit other identifiers.
 - Compare species data from one community site to another.
 - What species were most abundant and why?
 - Were any species under represented? Why do you think that happened?
 - Have students prepare tallies, reports, newsletter, thank you cards, etc. for community participants.
 - Consider having prizes for participants who make the most observations or identify the most observations.

