

BECOMING A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

There are a lot of citizen science activities you can be involved with. Here are just a few.

Outcomes: ST2-2DP-T ST2-4-1WS-S

WHY IS OBSERVATION IMPORTANT?

Observation is the first step to engaging with the living world. If you observe something then you are able to engage with it. Science relies on lots of observations for a true understanding of the world. When you are in nature, engaging as many of your senses as possible ensures the best possible observations, as some things are easy to miss if we are just using our eyes.



Success Criteria:

I understand how to make an observation.

I can record my observations

I know the method to make the same observation multiple times

I can describe various settings where I might am making my observations and could identify any changes in an environment.

STEP 1: DOWNLOADING APPS

Ensure you have permission, then download one or all of these apps onto your phone.



SEARCH FOR OTHER PROJECTS

There is so much citizen science you can get involved with. Simply do a web search for citizen science and find a project that interests you or might be important for your local area



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It is hard to participate in all the citizen science programs at the same time, therefore it is important to know which projects your data corresponds to.

STEP 2: GO OUTSIDE AND OBSERVE

Next time you are outside, observe what you see and hear. Try and take photos of interesting things or record interesting sounds. Decide whether the data you have collected is going to correspond with citizen science project you are engaging with. You don't need to go on a big adventure to participate. It is just as important to know what species are turning up in your backyard as it is to find new species when you're on a bushwalk.

Big City Birds is specifically for observations of sulphur-crested cockatoos, Ibis', brush turkeys and corellas. Scientists are curious about the behaviours of these birds in particular and how they interact with city environments



Questagame gamifies the citizen science experience. Compete with global users, or with have a more serious competition with your family and friends to see who can spot and identify the most species,



iNaturalist allows you to be involved in a global community of citizen scientists who are trying to identify as many species as possible and understand their natural distribution



FrogID doesn't rely on you being able to see frogs, merely hear them. It's important that we know and recognise where frogs are living in our local community as they are an indicator of a healthy ecosystem.



STEP 3: GET YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS INVOLVED

Citizen science works best when there are more users involved. How can you motivate yourself and your community to be more involved? Can you make a class project or competition to see who can identify the most species at school, or see who comes across the most species on their way home.

STEP 4: STAY SAFE

When participating in citizen science, it is important to be aware of your surroundings, make sure you are safe at all times and don't get too close to wild animals. It is important to make sure we are respecting nature while we appreciate and learn from it.