

outdoor Citizen Scientist Learning

Choose where to begin your science journey!

Bio Blitz - for new scientists

A 'BioBlitz' is a concerted effort to discover and record as many living things as possible within a set location over a limited time period (usually 24 to 36 hours). The main scientific aim of a BioBlitz is to generate or extend biodiversity data at the chosen location. BioBlitzes cannot be complete biological surveys but they do create significant species lists and have facilitated the discovery of new species, the rediscovery of rare species and the identification of species where they are not usually found.

Through recording the names and locations of species, a BioBlitz can generate biological species' records that can be used to help scientific research as well as to inform conservation practice and policy, local planning and land management on a variety of scales.

Resources and Preparation:

- Prepare login account for iNaturalist
- Digital cameras / tablets for taking photo observations
- Clipboards, pencils
- Rope to mark out the Blitz area for your student groups (1mx1m)
- optional tools to help eg. magnifying glasses
- consider inviting a local naturalist as a special expert guest for the activity

Year
2 & 3

Mapped to the Australian curriculum

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Main activity:

- Head outside and model the activity at one assigned BioBlitz location
- Break into smaller groups, each assigned a BioBlitz location (marked out using rope in a 1mx1m area – consider different locations around the school, could use skipping ropes to mark out)
- Students complete the record sheet and take photos of their observations
- At the end of the time, return for a class discussion

Discussion questions:

- What sorts of plants and animals did you find?
- What did you notice about your BioBlitz site?
- What could impact on the species that were living in the area?
- How many species did they estimate to have found?
- What could we do next with this data?

Where to next?

- upload the photos as a batch export to save time
- check back in to receive data results
- discuss the findings with the class (number of different species)

Further reading head to: The Australian BioBlitz Hub

<https://citizenscience.org.au/the-australian-bioblitz-hub/>

Curriculum links:

- Living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things (ACSSU044)
- Science involves making predictions and describing patterns and relationships (ACSHE050)
- Science knowledge helps people to understand the effect of their actions (ACSHE051)
- With guidance, identify questions in familiar contexts that can be investigated scientifically and predict what might happen based on prior knowledge (ACSIS053)
- Safely use appropriate materials, tools or equipment to make and record observations, using formal measurements and digital technologies as appropriate (ACSIS055)

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