

outdoor Citizen Scientist Learning

Begin your science journey!

BioBlitz - more class ideas!

When conducting a BioBlitz, there are so many ways you can collect and use the data you gather. We've put together a few ideas for some fun and informative learning moments.

- Shake a tree - place a white sheet under a tree and give the tree a good old shake! (being careful not to harm the tree of course). Record what falls out of the tree in iNaturalist. You might be surprised by what you find!
- Square Metre Challenge - Use some 1m classroom rulers and set up a 1m x 1m grid. Record everything inside that grid in iNaturalist - include grass types, leaves and bugs!
- Discovery Walk - Head out as a group for a walk around the school grounds, the block or even your neighbourhood and see what you can find. This is also a great way for children to explore their local surroundings in more detail.
- Use the Explore function in iNaturalist - you can use this function to investigate the other observations around your area. You can have a look at a picture that has been uploaded and decide what type of plant/animal it might be. You could also look into if you have found the same species.
- Friend or Foe? - Have a look at some of the plants and animals you have found and documented. Are they a native species or are they introduced? Are they a threat to the environment? This is a great way to introduce children to the delicate nature of our environment.
- Endangered species - Find out if there are endangered species native in your area. Have a look and see if it has been spotted in the Explore function and then head out and see if you can find one too.

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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?
- Would repeating this BioBlitz at a different time be useful? What might we discover?

Where to next?

Educator activities

- Save all observation photos into a folder saved as the date of the Blitz.
- Log into iNaturalist and upload the photos as a batch export to save time.
- Check back in to view data results.
- Discuss the findings with the class (number of different species).

Student activities

- Use the photos to do some more detailed sketches of the species, frame them as a display in the classroom.
- Write a newsletter article about the experience.
- Repeat the BioBlitz in a different season to compare observations.
- Use the data to make graph of the number of observations made.
- Use the data to make graphs and data presentations of the number of observations made.
- Head outside and make bug hotels and new habitat for species.
- Use the plant species identified to discuss planning for a new garden at the school.

Curriculum links:

- The growth and survival of living things are affected by physical conditions of their environment (ACSSU094)
- Science involves testing predictions by gathering data and using evidence to develop explanations of events and phenomena and reflects historical and cultural contributions (ACSHE098)
- Identify, plan and apply the elements of scientific investigations to answer questions and solve problems using equipment and materials safely and identifying potential risks (AC SIS103)
- Construct and use a range of representations, including tables and graphs, to represent and describe observations, patterns or relationships in data using digital technologies as appropriate (AC SIS107)
 - Communicate ideas, explanations and processes using scientific representations in a variety of ways, including multi-modal texts (AC SIS110)

Year
6

Mapped to the Australian National curriculum

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