



Biodiversity at School or in My Neighborhood

Using SEEK by iNaturalist

Grades 3 – 5

OBJECTIVES

- Observe nature and biodiversity to support native species like the monarch butterfly.
- Recognize observation as an essential first step in the process of science.
- Practice data analysis and visualization skills.

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Let's Prepare!

Watch the following videos:

1. [What is Citizen Science?](#)
2. [Learn Outdoor Safety](#)
3. [Observe Nature Like a Scientist](#)

Answer the following questions:

- Q1. What is biodiversity?
- Q2. Why do we want to have high biodiversity at our school?
- Q3. How have you and your peers increased biodiversity at your school or in your community?
- Q4. How do citizen scientists help scientists with their studies (projects/research)?
- Q5. Where (geographically) can monarchs be found?

Step 2: Let's Observe

Download the [SEEK by iNaturalist app](#).

This app will help identify the wildlife and plants seen as you explore nature. If downloaded on a personal or family device, you can earn badges and participate in challenges.

Draw, or use your phone, tablet, or camera to take pictures of organisms. Use the SEEK by iNaturalist app to help you identify at least one organism.

Identifying organisms in the field is a skill that requires practice – and this starts with looking closely at what you see! In your school garden, backyard, or on a walk in your neighborhood, draw or take a photograph of an organism. What does it look like? How big is it, and what things are around it? Do you know what the organism is called? ***Share your observation with your classmates.***



Step 3: Observation Bingo!

iNaturalist identifies categories of species that are in nature. Below is a bingo card for you to fill in with these categories. Using Seek by iNaturalist, go on a nature walk at school, at home, or in your neighborhood. **Draw or insert photos of the organisms you find below.** Can you complete your bingo card? Can you identify the organisms you saw using Seek by iNaturalist?

BIRD	REPTILE	PLANT
MAMMAL	FREE SPACE	FUNGI
INSECT	ARACHNID (SPIDER)	AMPHIBIAN

Extension Activity:

1. Watch the video [Biodiversity with National Wildlife Federation at Home!](#)
2. Discuss with your classmates: What are our ideas for increasing biodiversity at school or at home?
3. Check out and complete one of [Ranger Rick's® Nature Notebook activities.](#)