

Studying Biodiversity



Biodiversity is studied by seeking, photographing, identifying, and recording plant and animal species.

Many species hide or camouflage themselves in their habitats to protect themselves from predators.

Therefore, the study of biodiversity requires patience and attention to detail in order to fully understand the organisms living alongside us.

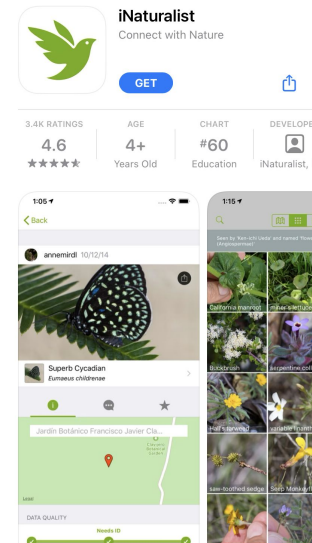


The **Neighborhood Science Kit** is a collection of tools to help up study biodiversity.

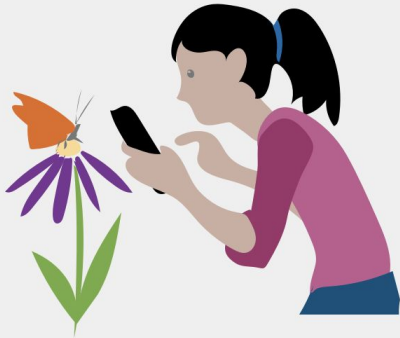


iNaturalist is an app that allows us to share the species we find with the scientific community.

Install the app from the app store and create an account to join the community.

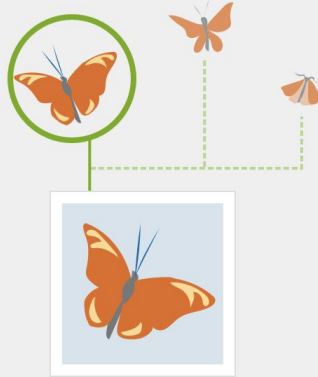


Contribute to the scientific community by submitting your observations in the iNaturalist app.



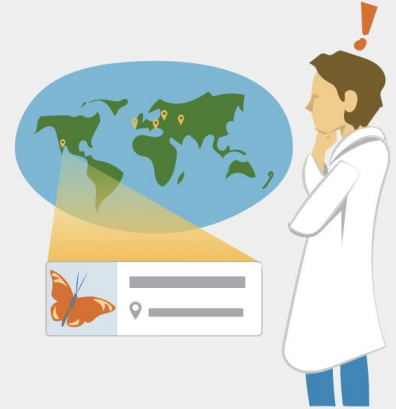
Observe

Get outside and observe an individual organism. Pick something wild, and take a clear, full frame photo.



Identify

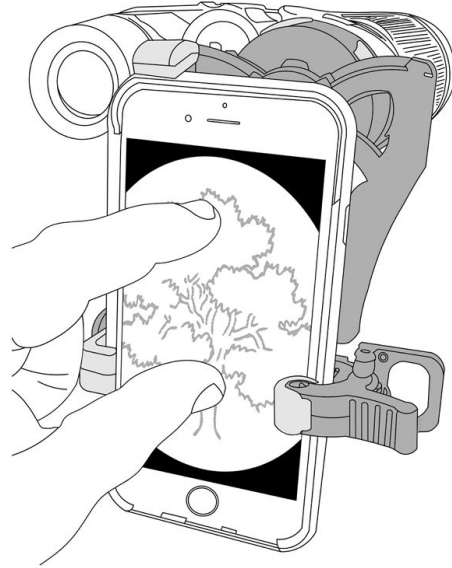
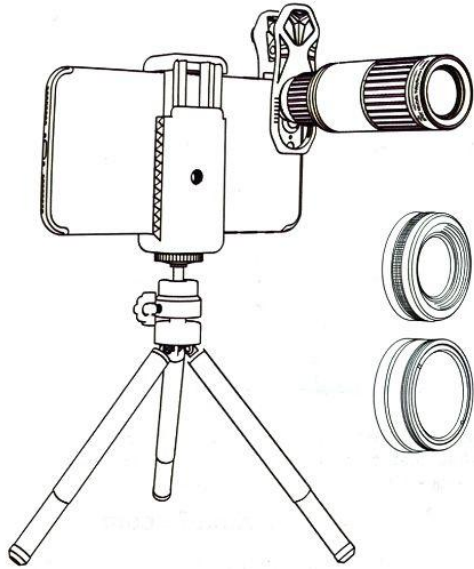
iNaturalist will automatically generate suggestions based on your photo and location.



Contribute

Your observation may be vetted as Research Grade and shared with scientists working to better understand and protect nature.

When observing species from a distance, use the kit's smartphone **tripod**, **zoom lens**, and **binocular mount**.



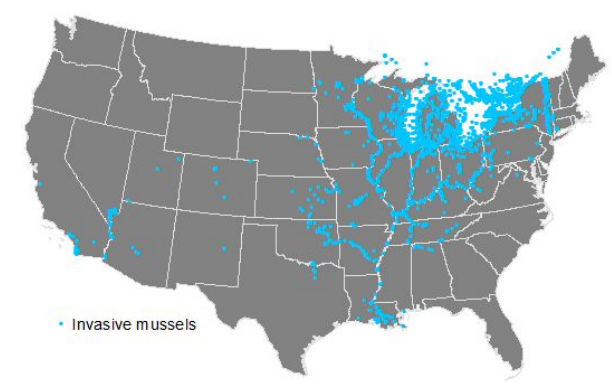
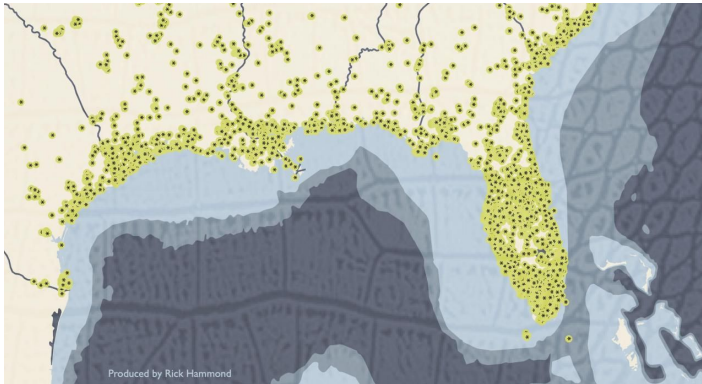
When observing species up close, use the kit's smartphone **macro lens**.



When identifying birds, use the kit's ***Birds of Southern California Guide*** to identify species.

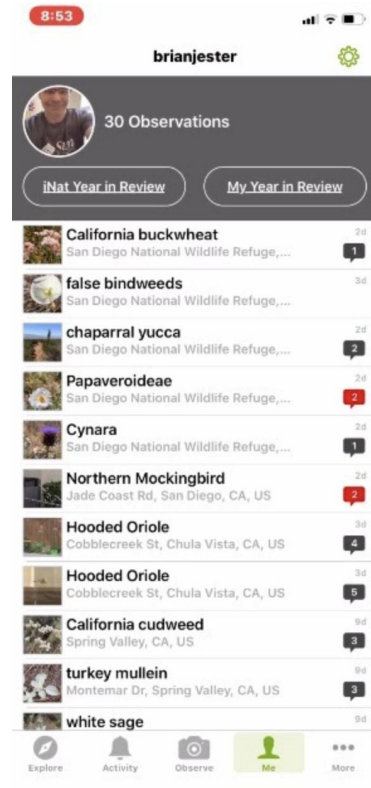
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GPS data records a species's natural habitat and/or the spread of invasive species.



Building your collection of observations in the app also builds your neighborhood's collective knowledge about it's biodiversity.

Try to collect a variety of animal and plant species. The more rare the sighting, the more valuable it is to the scientific community.



View the full Neighborhood Science Kit instructions at [**www.lapl.org/steam/neisci/exploring-biodiversity**](http://www.lapl.org/steam/neisci/exploring-biodiversity)

