



Project WILD Citizen Science Connections

Many WILD field investigation activities can become Citizen Science projects especially if data is recorded and compared over time (many school years)

Flying WILD Activities— including activities for skill development that pair well with bird-related citizen science efforts.

Teaming Up for Birds. Students research bird conservation organization, including those that facilitate citizen science efforts. As an option, students design their own bird conservation organization.

Count Your Birds. Students engage in citizen science by collecting data on birds using a stationary count method and contributing their data to a research database that professional ornithologists use in their studies of bird populations.

The Birding Beat. Students practice identifying common birds to their region.

Busy Bird Motel. Students participate in a simulation of bird banding and describe methods used by scientist to count birds; explain why scientist observe and band birds, and interpret color bands to identify years and places birds were banded.

Feeder Frenzy. Students engage in scientific inquiry to learn about feeding preferences of birds by proposing and conducting bird feeder experiments.

Migratory Mapping. Students plot coordinates on a map of the Americas to determine bird migration routes.

Who was that Masked Bird. In order to identify bird species, students analyze descriptions of birds as well as the structure and contents of bird field guides and bird identification apps.

Project WILD Activities -- Activities that suggest educators extend the activity through citizen science. Links to the citizen science projects are available alongside activity resources on projectwild.org.

Monarch Marathon. Students simulate the multi-Generational monarch butterfly migration and experience the limiting factors affecting monarch survival.

Busy Bees, Busy Blooms. Learn the process of pollination by acting as a bee or flower as pollen and nectar are exchanged.

Citizen science projects mentioned: Project BudBurst, Bumble Bee Watch

Phenology at Play. Perform skits and graph data to understand effects of climate change on phenology and a migratory bird population.

Citizen science projects mentioned: Project Budburst, Project Noah, eBird, iNaturalist or Nature's Notebook

Birds of Prey. Interpret data on wildlife populations and climate to recognize the interdependence of a healthy, functioning ecosystem.

Citizen science project mentioned: Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) program

Keeping Cool. Use thermometers in an investigation to explore how reptiles adapt to temperature changes.

Water Mileage. Perform calculations to understand how adaptations enable animals to survive in harsh environments.

Fire Ecologies. Carry out an investigation of burned and unburned habitat areas to evaluate the positive and negative effects fire has on wildlife and habitat.

Citizen science project mentioned: iNaturalist

Lights Out! Learn about light pollution and its impacts, and design an action plan to reduce light pollution in your community.

Citizen science project mentioned: Globe at Night

Bird Song Survey. Identify and inventory the local bird population.

Citizen science projects mentioned: Cornell Lab of Ornithology citizen science programs

Additional activities consisting of field investigations, which would pair well with citizen science efforts:

Ants on a Twig. Observe ant behavior, then model ant movement and communication.

Dropping in on Deer. Estimate the population density of deer in a given area by counting deer pellet groups.

Eco-Enrichers. Design and conduct an experiment to investigate soil types and organisms found in soil.

Environmental Barometer. Plan an investigation of biotic and abiotic elements in an area to consider relationships between environmental factors and the presence or absence of wildlife.

Graphananimal. Tally and graph the diversity of animals on a nature walk to compare different environments.

Insect Inspection. Ask an investigative question related to insects, then collect and explore insects to find out more.

HabiCache. Map evidence of wildlife and key habitat components using handheld devices with GPS to draw conclusions about the habitat needs of wildlife and humans.

Seed Need. Sort seeds based on dispersal method, and act as wildlife in a simulation to demonstrate seed dispersal.

Tracks! Search for and identify wildlife tracks, then make plaster casts of tracks.

Urban Nature Search. Go on a scavenger hunt to observe and record different types of wildlife and habitat features in your schoolyard.

Which Niche? Read ecosystem cards to identify and compare species' niches; then go outside to make observations of wildlife and various niches they fill.

World Travelers. Plan and carry out an investigation in your schoolyard to identify native and nonnative plant populations, examining the positive and negative effects of their presence.

Aquatic WILD Activities

Living Research: Aquatic Heroes and Heroines. Identify, research, and write a biography of someone who has made contributions to conserving aquatic environments

Additional activities consisting of field investigations, which would pair well with citizen science efforts:

Edge of Home. Explore the concept of ecotones by visiting places where habitats overlap.

Gone Fishing! Investigate fish and fish habitat by using data collected on a fishing trip to answer an investigative question.

Got Water? Explore the habitat features of a schoolyard or neighborhood to determine if certain animals can find what they need to survive in that area.

Puddle Wonders! Measure and record the amount of water in puddles, and observe and describe organisms that live in or near puddles.

Water Canaries. Assess the relative environmental quality of a stream or pond using indicators of pH, water temperature, and the presence of a diversity of organisms.

Water Safari. Investigate an outdoor study site to discover wildlife, signs of wildlife, and the locations of water sources which wildlife may use.

Watershed. Measure the area of a local watershed, calculate the amount of water it receives each year, and discuss functions of the watershed.

Where Does Water Run? Design and implement a field investigation involving relationships between levels of precipitation, runoff, and percentage of impervious ground cover.

Growing Up WILD Activities. Note that while these activities will not result in citizen-produced science, they help lay the groundwork for learners to be engaged with citizen science in later years.

Field Study Fun. Children investigate a field study plot to observe plant and animal interactions over time.

Looking at Leaves. Children practice their observation skills by comparing leaves.

Wildlife Is Everywhere! Children make observations and understand that wildlife is all around us.

Who Lives in a Tree? Children develop an awareness of trees and some of the animals that call them “home.”

Wildlife Water Safari. Children discover water sources for local wildlife and create a field notebook.