

## VISITOR Lesson Plan template

**Title of Lesson : iNaturalist Project**

<https://www.inaturalist.org/>

**Background** *(What museum artefact are you using for your lesson ? What curriculum areas does your lesson address, (eg History, Science, Language, etc.) ? What age range is your lesson suitable for ? What pre and post activities do you envisage? How will the work be assessed ?)*

A Citizen Science and Natural History project designed for Secondary pupils. The teacher has first used iNaturalist to add 20-30 observations themselves. They will have explored the Teacher's Guide here :

<https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/teacher's+guide>

The assumption is that most Secondary students will own a smartphone and can install the iNaturalist app. Permission will need to be sought in schools which restrict the use of phones in school.

The teacher needs to identify a location for students to make observations. This could be the school grounds or a local park (within walking distance), where observations take place over several weeks. Or it could be a day-trip to a suitable outdoor location (eg nature reserve, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, national park, etc.)

**Learning Objectives** *(What are the learning objectives addressed referenced to your own national curriculum ?)*

KS3 Science Programme of Study :

- "the interdependence of organisms in an ecosystem, including food webs and insect pollinated crops"
- "the importance of maintaining biodiversity and the use of gene banks to preserve hereditary material"

KS4 Science Programme of Study :

- "methods of identifying species and measuring distribution, frequency and abundance of species within a habitat"
- "the importance of biodiversity"

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**Lesson Starter** (*First 10 minutes : How will you begin the lesson in an engaging way ?*)

Show the Rabbit and Wolves simulation on a projected screen or interactive whiteboard :

<http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/activities/RabbitsAndWolves/>

Display population statistics pop-up. Run different simulations showing effects of too many rabbits (grass reduced), too many wolves (rabbits reduce), not enough grass (rabbits reduce), etc.

Discuss ecosystems are systems held in balance.

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**Main Activity** (30 minutes : What is the task children need to do ? How are the children organized -pairs, groups, etc.? How is the work differentiated? What extension activity is there ?)

Introduce iNaturalist Project. Share your own results of using it on screen. Emphasise that observations are not only or even mainly about wildlife – plants including moss and lichen are also included. Remind pupils of the importance of grass in the Rabbit and Wolves simulation.

Download iNaturalist app.

In pairs, watch iNaturalist videos and discuss :

<https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/video%252Btutorials>

**Plenary** (10 minutes : How will the children share what they have learned ? How will you link back to the Learning Objectives ? How will you link to the next lesson ?)

Answer questions based on videos. Homework task : make one observation, or take one photo observation and try to identify.

Next lesson : Review homework. Make observations in school grounds.

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**Resources** (What is needed to run this lesson (eg PowerPoints, Worksheets, Ipads, Internet access, Video Projection, Interactive whiteboard, etc.) ? Attach example documents and jpeg of artefact.)

Interactive whiteboard or projection screen linked to computer.

Pupils to bring mobile phones into lesson (with appropriate permissions) – Android and Apple supported.



Show above image to emphasise global reach of iNaturalist, including several European museums such as the Luxembourg National Museum of Natural History and the Goulandris Museum of Natural History, Greece.