



NatureSpot – biodiversity survey lesson plan

NatureSpot is a citizen science project, which allows the community to contribute flora and fauna observations on an online map. This will help the EcoCentre create a species dataset to protect habitat and enhance our urban biodiversity. Read more about the project [here](#).

- Students will gain skills to observe biodiversity, record data and map observations.
- Students will learn about flora and fauna that live in their neighbourhood, what type of habitat the animals live in and how that compares with surrounding areas.

Steps:

1. Go outside and observe flora and fauna. Slow down and take time to search for small insects on various layers of habitat or flowering plants that are in season.
2. Take a close up photo of a plant or animal (using a phone or iPad is easiest)
3. Go to <https://naturespot.crowdspot.com.au/>
4. Click "Get Started" or "Add a Spot" button.
5. Drag the map to position the marker at your location.
6. Complete the form that pops up and press submit. *Never put your home address on the first question!* Instead, enter a street name, "backyard" or "balcony"
7. Look at the map and compare observations with other students. What kind of different habitats are there in the neighbourhood? Are there any significant native plantings nearby?

Watch these tutorial videos

- [NatureSpot from your home, backyard & balcony](#) (3 min)
- [How to take macro zoom photos](#) (30 sec)
- [How to record your spots](#) (2 min)

Suggested further learnings

1. Research a plant or animal that you observed. What are their habitat, food and lifecycle?
 - [Atlas of Living Australia](#)
 - [Birds in backyard](#)
 - Common pollinator and beneficial insects in Victoria ([pdf](#)),
 - Indigenous plants, bees beetles and bugs, birds and fungi
<https://westgatebiodiversity.org.au/>
 - Habits for insects ([teaching guide](#))
2. Keep a nature journal to observe seasonal changes or write a story or poem about your observation.
3. Draw a picture of your observation or paint using leaves, sticks and seed pods
4. Design a habitat garden using [EcoCentre's Grow Wild Guide](#) to enhance biodiversity.

Please contact Reiko Yamada (reiko@ecocentre.com) to organise a digital incursion or should you require any additional support. We hope this enriches your student's learning experience.