

Connect with Nature

Background: [iNaturalist](#) is one of the world's most popular nature apps. It helps you identify the plants and animals around you. Connect with a community of over a million scientists and naturalists who can help you learn more about nature. By recording and sharing your observations, you'll create research quality data for scientists working to better understand and protect nature.

Materials: iNaturalist <https://www.inaturalist.org/>, cell phone or camera

Instructions:

How It Works



Who you are

You'll need to make an **iNaturalist account** and please only post your own personal observations

Where you saw it

Record both the coordinates of the encounter as well as their accuracy. You can obscure the location from the public

What you saw

Choose a group of organisms like **butterflies** or better yet a specific organism like the **Monarch butterfly**. If you provide evidence you can leave this blank and the **community can help**

When you saw it

Record the date of your encounter, not the date you post it to iNaturalist

Evidence of what you saw

By including evidence like a **photo or sound**, the community can help add, improve, or confirm the identification of the organism you encountered. Help the community by taking clear well framed photos, by including multiple photos from different angles

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The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is accredited
by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.