



Welcome to Science Action Club!

Science Action Club (SAC) is a hands-on, fun, STEM learning experience created by the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, California. The Academy is an aquarium, planetarium, rainforest, and natural history museum in the heart of San Francisco's Golden Gate Park—and a powerful voice for biodiversity research and exploration, environmental education, and sustainability across the globe. SAC was designed by the Academy to provide hands-on STEM activities and nature challenges to middle school youth in out-of-school time. When you join SAC you join a global community of youth collecting data alongside professional scientists. Today you and a trusted adult will embark on a Bug Safari. Using the iNaturalist app you will record your observations of arthropods to help scientists answer questions about how these small creatures create big environmental impacts.

What is citizen and community science?

Citizen and community science is a way for volunteers of all ages and professional scientists to work together to answer important questions about science and nature. By the end of this activity you will understand how to collect data for citizen and community scientist projects.

What is iNaturalist?

iNaturalist is a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society. One of the world's most popular nature apps, iNaturalist helps you identify the living things around you. Use iNaturalist to connect with a community of over one million scientists and naturalists who can help you learn more about nature.



What makes a Bug Safari important?

True or false: Scientists know everything about arthropods.

False. Scientists do not know everything about arthropods, nor how they might affect the environment. The observations you make and record on a Bug Safari can help document important changes over time. Your observations could even help identify bugs that were thought to be extinct. In 2006 10- and 11-year-old siblings found a rare nine-spotted ladybug (*Coccinella novemnotata*) near their home in Virginia. This was the first nine-spotted ladybug seen in the eastern U.S. in 14 years! Their finding confirmed that the species was not extinct and that with enough people working together this and other rare species could be found. Now that you know who SAC is and what you'll do during a Bug Safari, let's get started! Click on the PDF titled Embark on a Bug Safari.

