

# Local Action: Biodiversity around you



Source: SAM HOBSON/MINDEN PICTURES

In an urbanizing and busier world, the interaction between people's daily life and their living environment has changed drastically. On the one hand, people living in urban centers perceive less of a connection to nature as compared to people that live in more rural areas. On the other hand, we see a rising number of species that can forage in residential areas and have adapted to an urban environment.

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## BIODIVERSITY AROUND YOU

You will go out to find examples of biodiversity around you for 30-60 minutes. Find a minimal of 20 species... and try to find some divers groups of organisms. For example... fungi, birds, trees, plants, insects etc. One of our favourite groups... lichens: see a pic below:



Instructions on how to identify biodiversity using an app can be found below.

Importantly, we can go out to identify organisms that **DO NOT INCLUDE**:

- Domesticated animals (i.e., dogs, chickens in your backyard etc.)
- Your friends (yes... every year many pics of students appear...)
- Plants that have been planted in gardens (so only wild species)
- Organisms with a poor ID score (try to get a high likelihood of being correct)

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## Instructions on the use of the *iNaturalist* app

1. Download and install the app *iNaturalist* for Android or Apple

*iNaturalist can also be used via the web browser without downloading an app. If you can't or don't want to use the app, you can follow the same instructions and only take photos with your phone.*

2. Now, open the app

- Sign up with your own account (you can use Facebook or Google, or create another account)

3. How to use the app?

- Click on the green button with a +
- Click on the Camera icon at the bottom (or, if using from your library the PIC icon)
- Take the picture of the organism (I suggest starting with a slow-moving organism... they are easier to work with!)
- Click on the question mark in brackets directly below the figure (it states: "What did you see?")
- Select the species you think is correct (you can also get some extra pics by pressing the two opposing arrows)

4. Go out, and find a minimum of 20 unique species in your direct vicinity by using the app

- Try to get a variety of different taxa and kingdoms, for example, a mix of plants, trees, lichens, insects, fungi, spiders, other invertebrates, and maybe even some birds or mammals