



Citizen science - activity #2: Signs of Spring Bioblitz



On April 22 we celebrate 'Earth Day' every single year. On this day we celebrate our planet and put a special focus on all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. As part of this celebration the UNESCO Baltic Sea Project is hosting the *Signs of Spring Bioblitz*. By taking part in this activity, you will be making an active contribution to citizen science and towards reaching Goal 15 'Life on Land'.

So, what is a Bioblitz? In this case, it is a 2-month period from February 25th to April 25th 2022 during which every participant goes outside (hopefully often) and records every living sign of springtime they can find!

How to participate

1. You will need to make an account on [iNaturalist](http://www.inaturalist.org) (www.inaturalist.org) or log in with your Facebook, Apple or Google account. We use iNaturalist to organize the bioblitz and you will use the iNaturalist app on your phone to document everything you find.
2. Make sure you know your **username** in iNaturalist - when you log in, you should see the username right next to your profile picture. You need your username to register for this activity using our google form sign-up [here](https://forms.gle/UDhHHv6rbPFR5Z8V8). (<https://forms.gle/UDhHHv6rbPFR5Z8V8>)
3. Now sign in to iNaturalist and either search for our project (signs of spring in the Baltic sea region) or click [here](#). At the top right click 'join', then you will need to scroll down and confirm.
4. After registering, please watch our YouTube tutorial [here](https://youtu.be/TE8m9qyyAE) (<https://youtu.be/TE8m9qyyAE>) on how to use iNaturalist to make observations in nature.
5. As shown in the tutorial, download the app, sign-in and get outside!
 - a. **@teachers:** make it an outing, a fieldtrip or just an optional afternoon with your class!
 - b. **@students:** most teachers have never heard of iNaturalist or citizen science, so take the initiative and encourage them to go outside with your class!
 - c. **@everyone else:** get a friend or family member to and participate with you!
6. Once outside don't worry about only documenting 'signs of spring'. Feel free to document every living organism you find. And if you are having trouble joining the project, no worries, we can add you manually and all of your observations will be added to the Bioblitz.
7. Feel free to add some observations or pictures of your group on Instagram with the hashtags **#UNESCOBalticSeaProject #BSPsignsofspring**.

Having difficulties? Have a question? Then reach out to Nick, who is part of the UNESCO BSP Citizen Science team: nicolai.krichevsky@gmail.com