

## Exploring with Seek by iNaturalist

*Just like you, scientists sometimes encounter plants and animals that they aren't familiar with. Use your observation skills and a smartphone app to learn more about the plants and animals near you!*

**Location:** Indoors or outdoors in your home

**Length of Time:** 30 minutes

### What You'll Do

During this investigation, you will use the *Seek by iNaturalist* app to identify plants and animals near your home. After, you'll create your first field guide entry in your science journal.

### You will learn to...

- Use Seek to identify plants and animals.
- Create a field guide entry that will help you identify a plant or animal.

### What You'll Need

- A science journal.** This can be a notebook, a notepad, a document on a tablet or phone, or even paper folded together!
- Something to write with.** Markers, crayons, or colored pencils are optional.
- The *Seek* app,** downloaded onto a smartphone or tablet.

### Directions

1. Visit Crystal Cove Conservancy's website to watch Kaitlin introduce the task: [crystalcove.org/exploring-with-seek](https://crystalcove.org/exploring-with-seek)
2. As you explore around your home, backyard, patio, or neighborhood, use Seek to identify any plants or animals. On a blank page in your science journal, write the name of each species that you find.
3. Choose one species to include in your first field guide entry. At the top of a new page in your science journal, write your chosen species name.
4. Draw a picture of your chosen plant or animal. Describe it in as much detail as you can, including any smells, sounds, textures, size, or interesting information from Seek.
5. Once you're done, share your field guide with a family member, friend, or classmate!

### Questions to ask while you're sharing:

- What plants and animals did you find around your home?
- Which species did you decide to include in your field guide?
- If you saw this species again, how would you use your field guide to identify it? What features would you look for?

### Want to do more?

- Keep building your field guide! Choose another plant or animal and create an entry for it.
- For a challenge, try making a field guide entry for another species that look similar. What do you need to include in your field guide to help you tell the two species apart?
- Put your field guide to the test by giving it to a member of your household! See if they can use your field guide to find the same species in your area.

**Share your field guide with us on social media! Post a photo of your observations on Facebook or Instagram using the hashtag #crystalcove-science!**