

# Explore Urban Nature: BioBlitz day guidance.

## **Have your Schools own BioBlitz day.**

BioBlitz: where a group, or in this case a school, record as many types of different species they can find within one area on one day or event.

This can take place on school grounds, in nearby parks or as a homework to complete at home. By discovering the different animals and plants which live in your BioBlitz area, you will have a better understanding of the biodiversity and habitat which survives in your area.

For more information on BioBlitz have a look at our [BioBlitz blogs](#) from Birmingham Museums Trust. Or follow this link to see more information from the National Geographic: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/bioblitz/>

Make sure to record all your findings of different animals!

## **How to Identify animals and plants on a BioBlitz:**

Seek by INaturalist, is a free app which can be downloaded and used in your schools.

[https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek\\_app](https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app)

Students can use Seek to identify each animals, plant and fungi within your school grounds.

Students simply hold the camera of the device over the object being studied and it will be able to identify right down to species. Once the animal or plant has been identified students can add it to the devices collection and find further information about their identified species.

## **For bird specific identification:**

**Merlin Bird ID** <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

More advanced, possibly for KS3 or higher KS2, bird identifying app. (Class/staff sign in may be required for this app.)

To identify birds, it uses physical description. This could allow for students to use the app together after having found and written descriptions of birds.

## **Importance:**

Having BioBlitz days are really important. They allow us to discover how much variety of animal life we have in urban areas.

They are also vital for recording animal diversity providing data which could be accessed to safeguard our natural habitats.