

Camera Trap Lesson

3rd Grade

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Objectives

- Learn about the wildlife that live in urban habitats
- Learn about how scientists use camera traps to study urban wildlife
- Learn the following concepts: wildlife corridors, invasive species, urban habitat patches, citizen science
- Practice making a graph

Preparation

- Set up Zooniverse project or go to an already created Zooniverse project:
 - <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/roshnika/wildlife-at-oxy>
- Print [tally sheet](#) for each student
- Set up [class data sheet](#)
- Bring a camera to show
- Get a link to the [map of your area](#) showing satellite image

Instructions

- Discuss the following as a class:
 - What kinds of animals do you think or know live in your neighborhood?
 - Add table to the board for class to see
 - Where do you think these animals live in your neighborhood?
 - Show [map](#) and have students add points to show where they think animals live.
 - What different kinds of ways do you think we could study or learn about these animals?
 - How to study them if hard to find?
 - What is a camera trap?
 - Have you played Pokemon before?
- Lesson:
 - In Los Angeles we have, Birds, Deer, Skunk, Possum, Squirrels, Bobcats, and Mountain Lions (among many other species)
 - Camera traps are devices that are used to capture images on wildlife that are difficult to observe
 - Where do species live
 - Which species are there
 - What time of day the animals are there
 - How the animals move between habitats

- Activity:
 - Go to the [Zooniverse website](#) (no account needed, but students are encouraged to have their parents help them set up an account after school)
 - Begin classifying images. What animals do you see? How many do you see in each picture? Use the help buttons to assist you.
 - Keep a tally of all the images you see on your data sheet.
 - After time is up, add your numbers to the [class data sheet](#)
- Discuss:
 - Data analysis: summarizing our results
 - Bar chart
 - Shows us the total number observed for the class
 - What animals were most often seen? Why do you think that is?
 - Show images of other cool wildlife that can be observed with camera traps
 - What is a captive versus a wild animal?
 - What is an **invasive species**?
 - How do these animals get to **urban habitat patches**? What is a **wildlife corridor**?
 - Link to [map](#)
 - How can we protect these animals so that they can continue to live here with us?
 - What you can do as a **citizen scientist**:
 - Sign up for a [Zooniverse](#) account
 - Get an [iNaturalist](#) account
 - Join the annual Occidental College Bioblitz (Saturday March 31st, 2018)

References:

- Photo credits: Johanna, Denis Callet, Roshni Katrak-Adefowora