

Citizen Science in Schools

- The Benefits & The Limitations

~A Citizen Scientist In A Primary School's Perspective~

















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Introduction:

This case study focuses upon my experience at 3 local Queensland State Primary Schools who previously had no knowledge of Citizen Science, how it could be incorporated into the school curriculum as well as the benefits and occasional limitations.

How Does Citizen Science Relate to The National Curriculum? ^{1 & 2}



The Benefits	The Limitations
 Taking Pictures!	 Cameras and / or GPS disabled on iPad / tablets (School privacy rules – depends on school)
 Discovering new flora and fauna species!	 Search engines (Bing, App Store, Google, etc.) give inaccurate result lists for apps and projects
 Getting local farmers, Aboriginal Elders and the school community involved (e.g. BioBlitz)	 Health and Safety requirements of the school for students
 Outdoors!	 Limited Wi-Fi signal onsite
 Exploring the macro and micro scales	 Tablets / iPads not used at the school
 Students more aware of the world around them	 Limited budget for science activities (e.g. USB microscopes)
 Eager participation!	 Educators wanting to do interesting but age-wise unsuitable projects

Citizen Science Project Recommendations for Primary Schools:

School of Ants Australia
 Birds in Backyards – Schoolground
 BugWise for Schools

Bowerbird
 Explore the Seafloor
 TeachWild
 BioBlitz
 StreamWatch
Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMD)

Atlas of Living Australia
 Weather Detective
 Zooniverse
 eBird
 Bowerbird
 WaterWatch
 ClimateWatch

Prep -----> Grade 6

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References:

1. Australian National Curriculum – Science <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/science/content-structure> Accessed 14/7/2015 9:47 PM
 2. Educating Deborah Website <http://educatingdeborah.com/the-australian-national-curriculum-with-programming-summary/> Accessed 19/07/15 11:14 PM