NAME: _____ DATE: _____

EXPLORING LOCAL BIODIVERSITY WITH iNATURALIST

iNaturalist is a free tool that allows people to document and identify the wild animals, plants, fungi, and other organisms they observe worldwide. People contribute data such as photographs, sounds, notes, and identifications that anyone can explore through iNaturalist.org.

Goal: Explore the biodiversity of your local ecosystem through observations made by iNaturalist citizen scientists. Compare these observations to your own.

To explore wildlife observations near you, follow these steps:

1. **Go to iNaturalist.org and choose the "Explore" tab at top left.**

   How many **observations** have been made worldwide to date? _____

   How many **species** have people observed globally to date? _____

2. **Type the name of your city or town in the "Location" box and select "Go."**

   Community, city, or town: _____

   How many **species** have people observed there? _____

   How many observers have contributed to these observations? _____

3. **Select the "Species" tab. Scroll to see photos of the species found in your area. Complete the table below.**

How does this information compare with your own biodiversity observations?	Write one thing that surprised you and one question you have.

4. Go back to the "Observations" tab and select "Places of Interest" and type the name of a wildlife preserve or state park. Parks and preserves are often protected lands, with special attention to healthy ecosystems.

   Name of location: _____

   How many **species** have people observed there? _____

5. Select the "Species" tab. Scroll to see photos of different species found in this place. Complete the table below.

How does the biodiversity in this park or preserve compare with your city or town in Question 2?	Write one thing that surprised you and one question you have.

6. How did the local iNaturalist data compare with your own observations? If they are different, why do you think that is?

7. Thinking about your findings in Steps 4 and 5, do you think protection of land leads to greater biodiversity? Why or why not?