

## Citizen Science Activities

Participate in a Citizen Science project! Collect ants for scientists or document the wildlife in your area with a phone app.

### The School of Ants

The School of Ants project is a citizen-scientist-driven study of the ants that live in urban areas, particularly around homes and schools. Collection kits are available to anyone interested in participating ([www.scistarter.com/project/505-School\\_of\\_Ants](http://www.scistarter.com/project/505-School_of_Ants)).

The project provides a sampling kit. Each kit consists of nine plastic vials, a data entry form, and an instruction sheet. You place four of the open vials (pre-packed with cookie bait) in green space (lawns, gardens, woods), and another four on paved space (asphalt, concrete, cobblestone) for one hour on a warm day and see what ants discover the baits in this time frame. (There is also an additional orange-capped vial is for anything else that you would like to have the team identify.)

### Project NOAH

With a cell phone app your students can document local wildlife and add their observations to a growing database for use by ongoing citizen-science projects ([www.scistarter.com/project/338-Project\\_NOAH](http://www.scistarter.com/project/338-Project_NOAH)).

Using the Noah mobile application, users take a photograph of an interesting organism, select the appropriate category, add descriptive tags, and click submit. You can also use this app to see what kinds of organisms are nearby by searching through a list or exploring a map of the area.

For more Citizen Science projects, visit [www.scistarter.com/](http://www.scistarter.com/).

*Citizen Scientists: Be a Part of Scientific Discovery from Your Own Backyard*, by Loree Griffin Burns. Henry Holt, 2012.

## Test It Out!

Act like a scientist and take a closer look at chlorophyll in a leaf.

1. With the help of an adult, boil two cups of water.
2. Carefully add a green leaf to the boiling water, and let it boil for two minutes.
3. Move the pan off the heat.
4. Use a pierced spoon to lift the leaf from the water.
5. Place a Pyrex measuring cup partially filled with rubbing alcohol in the water without spilling any water.
6. Put the leaf in the rubbing alcohol. Observe the leave every ten minutes, and record what you see.
7. Write your results. What happened? What did you see? What did the leaf look like?

### For online resources check out:

Why leaves turn colors in fall:

[www.sciencemadesimple.com/leaves.html](http://www.sciencemadesimple.com/leaves.html)

PowerPoint on how to remove chlorophyll from leaves: [www.ehow.com/how\\_5789711\\_remove-chlorophyll-leaves.html#page=1](http://www.ehow.com/how_5789711_remove-chlorophyll-leaves.html#page=1)

