Citizen Science With Zooniverse

(1 of 2 of the Citizen Science Module)

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# Summary

Students will learn that average citizens and even students can make meaningful contributions to science through citizen science. Students will learn some things about citizen science, learn more about a specific example, Zooniverse, and then try Zooniverse for themselves at [www.zooniverse.org](http://www.zooniverse.org).

# Engineering Connection

This lesson relates more to science than engineering, but engineering can be brought in because an engineer had to implement the software that allows the citizens to contribute to the science projects on zooniverse.org. Scientists often need a lot a data to do their research. Sometimes they can use large numbers of average citizens to help collect/analyze their data. In some ways, the students will be acting as research assistants.

# Grade Level

4-6, but it could be used for high school if more complex explanations of citizen science and the projects on zooniverse.org are given than those recommended in the slide notes.

# Duration

50-60 minutes

# Cost Per Group

$0, assuming you have computers with Internet access available.

# Materials List

* Computers with internet access, preferably one per student.
* A projector or something similar for displaying the presentation slides.

# Learning Objectives

* Understand that average citizens and even students such as themselves can make small, but meaningful contributions to science
* Understand how easy it is to make contributions to science
* Learn specifically what some of the ways are a citizen can contribute to science, such as classifying whale calls

# Procedure

The procedure of the lesson, including assessments, is embedded in the presentation slides. See the slides and slide notes for more.