

Observing Nature



**NATIONAL
PUBLIC LANDS
DAY HANDS ON
ACTIVITY**



National Coordinator



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TOYOTA

Nature is all around us!

This year, celebrate [National Public Lands Day](#) by observing nature where you live and contributing to ongoing research projects. Whether in a park, backyard, or outside your window, nature is all around us!

Observing nature can be done with the naked eye, through visual enhancement devices like binoculars and telescopes, or by listening for animal sounds. By observing nature, we can learn about the challenges a species may be facing, including the impacts of climate change.



Urban birds

Birding, or birdwatching, is the observation and identification of birds in their natural habitat. Birds can be observed with the naked eye or with binoculars, telescopes, or webcams. The great thing about birds is that they can be spotted almost anywhere!



Contribute to research

Join the [Celebrate Urban Birds](#) project to help scientists study urban bird populations. Learn to identify birds where you live, select a time to observe, and share your data.



Phenology

Phenology is “[nature’s calendar](#)”—the timing of cyclical and seasonal events, including flowering, changing leaf color, and bird migration. Changes in phenology, such as leaf changes occurring later in the fall, can help scientists understand how plants and animals are responding to climate change.



Contribute to Research

Become a [Nature’s Notebook observer](#) to help scientists track changes in plant and animal communities where you live.

Nature photography

Snapping photos of plants and animals is a fun way to explore the local environment and learn more about nature. Even better, nature photos can help scientists study biodiversity when many people share their observations.



Contribute to Research

Join [iNaturalist](#) to share your nature photos, get help identifying plants and animals, and contribute to biodiversity science.

Sources

Activities and information for this activity were sourced from the following resources:

[Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#)

[USA National Phenology Network](#)

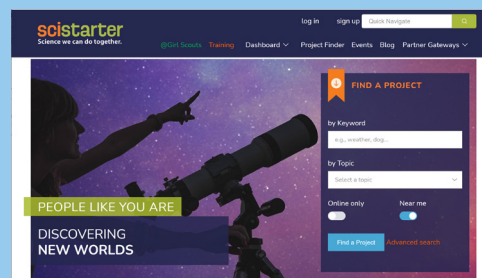
[iNaturalist](#)

[SciStarter](#)



Even more options!

There are hundreds of projects you can join to help scientists study nature and the environment. Visit [SciStarter](#) to search for projects that inspire you.



<https://scistarter.org/>

Toyota 2050 Challenges

In October 2015, Toyota announced the [Toyota Environmental Challenge 2050](#). Since then Toyota's has been striving to reduce the environmental burden attributed to automobiles to as close to zero as possible, while developing measures to contribute positively to the earth and its societies with the aim of achieving a sustainable society. This activity directly aligns with two of Toyota's 2050 Challenges:

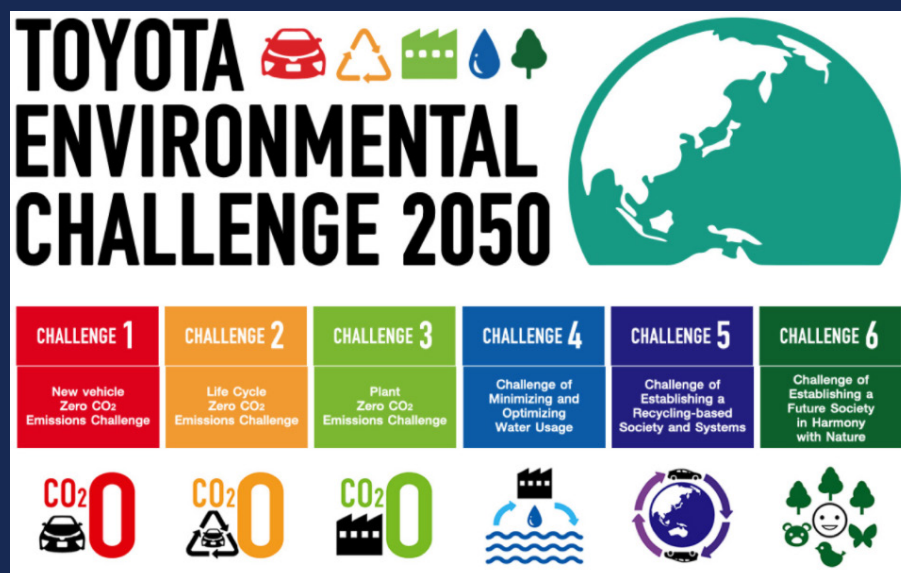
Challenge 5 Establishing a Recycling-based Society and Systems

Due to global population increase along with the pressure for economic growth and convenient lifestyles, the pace of resource consumption is accelerating. If large-scale exploitation continues as it is, natural resources will be depleted, and if waste increases due to mass consumption, appropriate disposal will be unable to keep pace, resulting in risks of environmental pollution.

Challenge 6 Establishing a Future Society in Harmony with Nature

It is critical for humans to conserve forests and other natural environments in all regions for coexistence in harmony with nature. However, deforestation is progressing across the world, resulting in the fragmentation of diverse living creature habitats, as well as the continuing loss of biodiversity. This entails a number of issues including the loss of biological resources that are essential for society, causing natural

disasters, and spurring global warming, and we believe that it poses a risk to the potential for the sustainability of the entire society.



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