

Citizen Science with Globe Observer: Mosquito Habitat Mapper

General Biology II: Observation Instructions

Citizen science is the practice of engaging the public in scientific research, allowing everyday people to contribute valuable data to real-world studies. This collaborative approach makes science more accessible and inclusive while helping researchers collect large, diverse data sets that would be impossible to achieve alone. It's especially important because it empowers communities to address local and global challenges, from tracking climate change to monitoring biodiversity and disease vectors like mosquitoes.

What's exciting about citizen science is that it gives you a direct role in advancing science. You become part of a global network of observers, making discoveries and contributing to research that can lead to tangible impacts, like protecting public health or understanding ecosystems. It's also cool because it brings science out of the lab and into your daily life, turning curiosity into meaningful action.

You will be contributing to citizen science by using the *Globe Observer: Mosquito Habitat Mapper* app. Over the semester, you are required to make 15 mosquito-related observations. These observations will contribute to global research on mosquito populations and their habitats. Follow the instructions below to get started and ensure you meet the project requirements.

Step 1: Download and Set Up the App

1. Download the App

- Search for *Globe Observer* in your device's app store (available on iOS and Android).

2. Register for an Account

- Open the app and create an account using your email address or Google account.

3. Access the Mosquito Habitat Mapper Tool

- Once logged in, select "Mosquito Habitat Mapper" from the main menu.
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Step 2: Preparing for Observations

1. Gather Supplies:

- You may need a magnifying lens, a container for water sampling, and a small spoon or pipette for examining mosquito larvae.

2. Safety First:

- Wear protective clothing and insect repellent if observing in areas with mosquitoes.
- Avoid direct contact with mosquito habitats in areas of high disease risk.

3. Find Observation Sites:

- Look for standing water such as ponds, puddles, birdbaths, gutters, or containers. These are potential mosquito breeding grounds.
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Step 3: Making Observations

1. Open the Mosquito Habitat Mapper Tool:

- Follow the prompts to record data about your observation site.

2. Document the Habitat:

- Describe the water source (e.g., artificial container, natural pool).
- Record the presence of mosquito larvae if visible.

3. Collect and Identify Mosquito Larvae (Optional):

- Use the app's identification guide to classify mosquito larvae based on observable features.
- If you are unsure, take clear photos and upload them as part of your submission.

4. Eliminate Breeding Sites When Safe:

- The app encourages you to remove standing water or treat habitats responsibly. Always follow local guidelines.
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Step 4: Submitting Data

1. Check Your Entries:

- Ensure all required fields are complete, including habitat type, photos (if possible), and the presence or absence of larvae.

2. Submit Observations:

- Once satisfied with your data, hit "Submit." Your observation will be uploaded to the Globe database.
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Step 5: Submissions

Your submissions will be handled via Canvas in the course modules. Follow the guidelines below for each assignment:

1. Assignment 1: App Download

- By the first deadline, download the app and watch the [tutorial video](#) linked in the assignment on Canvas.
- Submit a reply to the assignment in Canvas with the word "Done" to receive 1 point. This is on the honor system, but you will need the app for future assignments.

2. Assignments 2–4: Observations

- **You will submit your progress in three stages:**
 - **5 Observations:** Include your *Globe Observer* ID, observation dates, times, and Zip codes.
 - **10 Observations:** Repeat with additional observations. You can repeat your first five observations in this submission.
 - **15 Observations:** Final submission with all required details. You can include your first ten observations in this submission.

Each observation submission will be verified using the time, date, and Zip code provided. (Observations on Wiley campus will all have the Zip code 75670.) Ensure your entries are accurate and match the data recorded in the app.

Step 6: Tracking Progress

- **Log Your Observations:**

- Keep track of your 15 required observations using a journal or spreadsheet.
 - Check your submissions in the app to ensure they have been uploaded.
 - **Spread Out Your Work:**
 - Aim to complete at least 1–2 observations per week to avoid last-minute rushes.
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Tips for Success

- **Explore a Variety of Habitats:**
 - Observe in different locations to gain diverse data (e.g., urban vs. rural, natural vs. artificial water sources).
 - **Learn from the App:**
 - The Mosquito Mapper includes helpful guides and tutorials—use these to improve your skills!
 - **Engage in Class Discussions:**
 - Share interesting findings during class or lab discussions.
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Grading and Deadlines

- **Total Observations: 15 (required by the end of the semester).**
 - **Evaluation:** Your observations will be graded based on completeness and accuracy of submissions, including appropriate documentation of habitats and larvae.
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Additional Resources

For more information on using the app, visit the [Globe Observer website](#). If you encounter technical issues, reach out to your instructor for guidance.

This activity is an opportunity to engage in real-world science while learning about the ecological and medical importance of mosquitoes. Happy observing!

