

An observation records an encounter with an individual organism at a particular time and location. This includes encounters with signs of organisms like tracks, nests, or things that just died. When you make an observation, you'll record:



Your observations don't need to include all of these parts, but they do in order to become research quality observations for science.

Remember, you should make separate observations for each separate critter encounter. If you observed something not wild, like a lion in the zoo or a planted rose in your garden, make sure to mark it as captive/cultivated to prevent it from becoming research quality.

For more guidance, go to:

[iNaturalist.org/pages/getting+started](https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/getting+started)

You can also make observations with your camera! More instructions online.

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