**Mini BioBlitz**

**Summary:** Students observe important aspects of water in an ecosystem, determine the role water has in the lives of different organisms, and explore aquatic ecosystems.

**NGSS:** K.ESS3.1\*, 2.LS4.1, 2.ESS2.1, 7.LS2.2,
((\*) dictates that the lesson may be modified to fit this standard)

For this activity, you need a notebook and a pencil or colored pencils. You might also enjoy having a cell phone and the Seek app (see below).

Go outside and find a comfortable place to sit with plenty of plants. A place with water is best, but nonessential. Record every type of plant, fungi, and wildlife (including insects!) you see over 30 minutes. Record each type of organism only once. You may take a photograph of each organism, draw a sketch, or describe the organism in words. It is okay if you do not know what the organism is called. If you are interested in finding out the names of organisms, take a picture of the organism and use Seek, an iNaturalist app, to identify your find. You can download Seek at <https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app> or in the Apple App Store.

Pick five of the organisms you discovered and think about how they use water. How do they access water? Is water readily available to them, or do they have to travel. If so, how far? What happens to the organism if there is not enough water? Write two paragraphs about the relationships of these five organisms to water. Remember, an organism can be a plant or an animal. Have fun exploring nature right around you!