Citizen-Science Habitat Mapping Project

First, visit: www.habitat.network and sign up for an account.

After you sign in, watch the Welcome Video to learn how to get started.
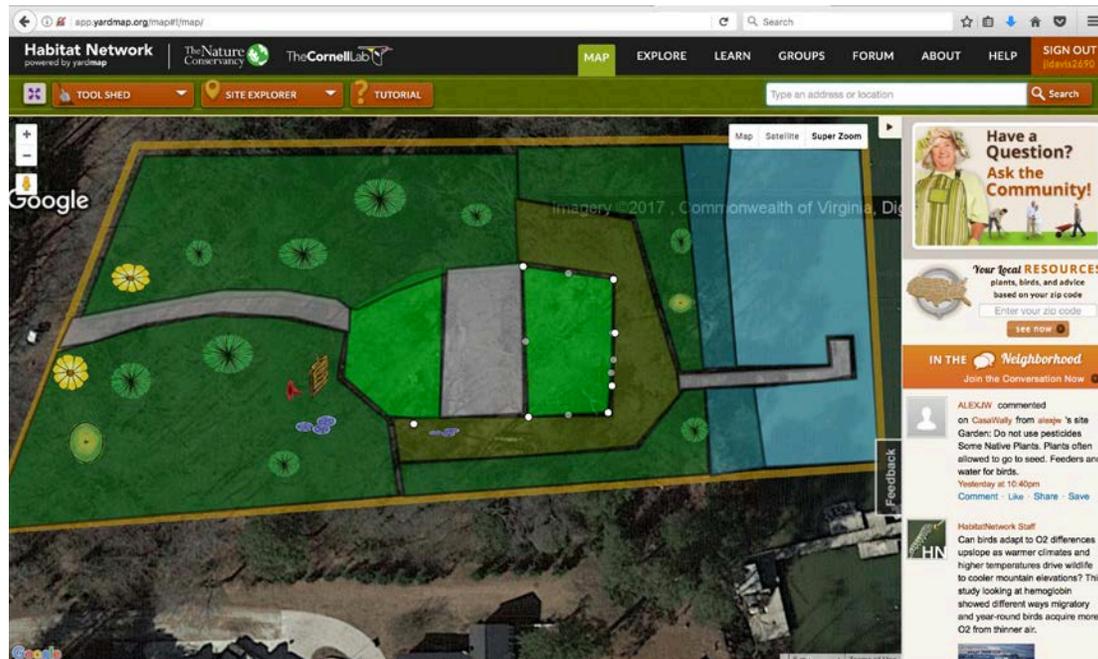
Map Your Habitat. You will need to find your address (or another property to map/school/church/family's property, etc.) and create a Habitat Map using the Tool Shed (instructions are in the Welcome Video). Once you have mapped your yard, take a screenshot of your map. It should look something like the image above.

Find Your Local Info. Click on the "Explore" button at the top right of the screen. Plug in your zip code and find the following information about your local area:

- What is the name of your ecoregion? What are the characteristics of this ecoregion?
- What pollinators are important in your ecoregion? Name five types of pollinators you could attract to your yard, and what types of plants you should consider planting in order to attract each one (hint: not all pollinators like the same plants).
- Name five bird species recently spotted in your area, and name a plant that each one might use for either food or habitat.

Learn More. Click on the "Learn" tab at the top of the page. Find three articles of interest and write a synopsis of each.

Design Your Plan. Lastly, looking at your yard, come up with a plan on how you can improve this habitat for local wildlife. Do you have a lot of lawn? Maybe you can plant shrubs or pollinator-specific plants in an area or two. Provide five specific things you could do to improve the habitat quality of your mapped yard and explain why you would do each. (Hint: use the Planning Tool for ideas!)

Submit Your Work. Turn in your map, the information you found about the ecoregion, pollinators, birds, plants, article synopses, and your plan on how to improve your yard. Evaluate three other student's Habitat Map and improvement plans. Provide at least 3 thoughtful, complete sentences on their ideas to improve their own yards.