



Foundations of Citizen Science

What is it, and how can you get involved?

Today's Agenda



Introductions



What is Citizen Science?



How to Get Started



Taking a Closer Look



Wrap-up



**What comes
to mind when
you hear the
phrase citizen
science?**

What is citizen science?



Citizen Science

A **collaboration** between scientists and those of us who are curious, concerned, and motivated to make a difference.

It's how people can make an impact on issues they care about...and help science!

Imagine this tree in your neighborhood.

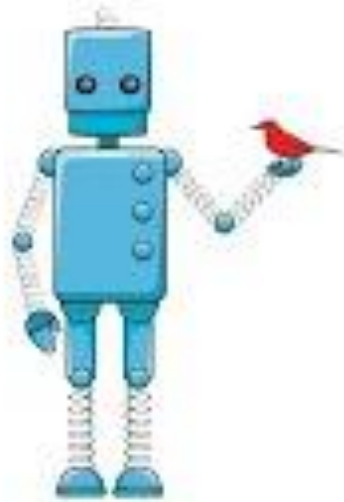
What do you notice?

- How many leaves do you see in relation to flowers?
- Do you see buds on the branches?
- Are the flowers in full bloom or are some wilted?



You just participated in citizen science!

You just shared observations that scientists can use to research climate change or the appearance of destructive invasive species, and that city planners might use to better understand tree canopies and heat effects.



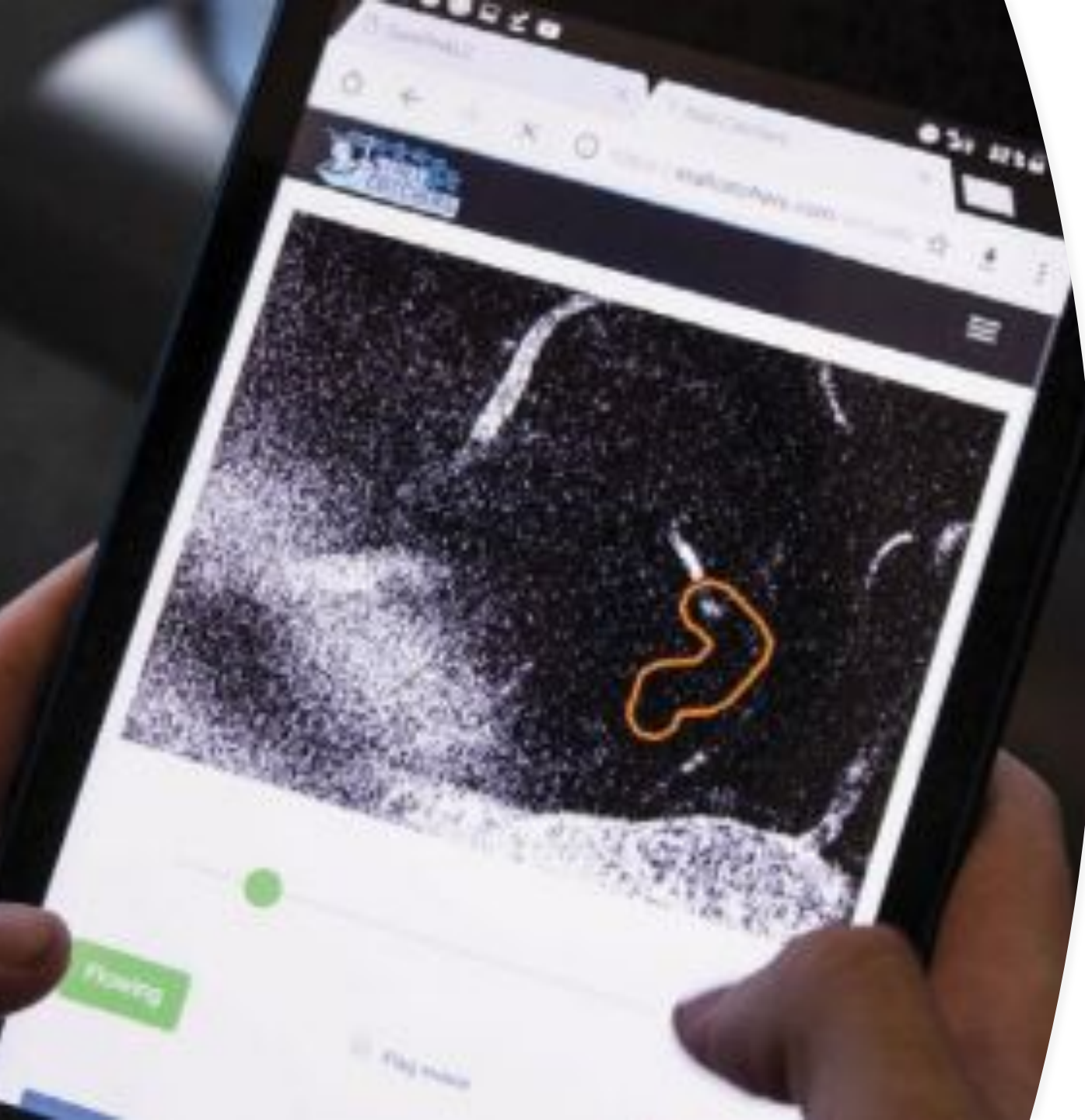
scistarter
People-powered science.

**Why is it
important?**



Because of citizen scientists, we now know...

- Bird populations have declined by 50%
- Birds are breeding earlier
- 50+ types of bacteria live in your belly button
- The first flowering of 19 species of plants has moved 9 days earlier over the past decade
- There's a new type of aurora in the night sky (and the citizen scientists named it Steve!)
- There's another Jupiter-sized planet
- Invasive mosquito species have arrived in Germany



Plus!

In one weekend in 2019, citizen scientists accomplished 2,566 research hours, or 3.5 months of lab-equivalent research time, for an Alzheimer's research project.

Who can do citizen science?

Citizen scientists are typically people without specialized training who participate in scientific research to help answer questions that cannot be answered without their help.

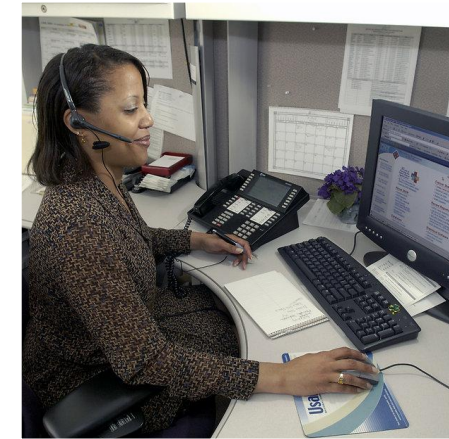


**The
answer is
anyone!**

**Retired
people**



**Busy working
adults**



**Community
Groups**



**Youth
groups**



**How do you
get started?**



PEOPLE LIKE YOU ARE

DISCOVERING
NEW WORLDS

↓ FIND A PROJECT

by Keyword

by Topic

Online only

Near me

Find a Project [Advanced search](#)

Step 1: Join SciStarter.org

SciStarter is a globally acclaimed, online citizen science hub where more than 3,000 projects from all over the internet have been organized and made searchable!



Create an account

CREATE A SCISTARTER ACCOUNT ×

If you already have an account, [log in](#) to continue

Username

* Email

Zip Code

* Password

* Repeat password

Sign up for our newsletter

* Agree to SciStarter's [Terms of Use](#)

Find projects that interest you!



The Great Sunflower Project

Document pollinators in your community.



Caterpillars Count!

Measure seasonal variation by counting arthropods.



Globe at Night

Monitor light pollution.

Anywhere. Anytime. Any topic.

Project Finder

Enter a word or a phrase

Enter a location

Projects to do while...

Select a topic

only projects that...

Age group(s)

clear form

find projects

1-11 of 1563 Newest Oldest

TeachOSM

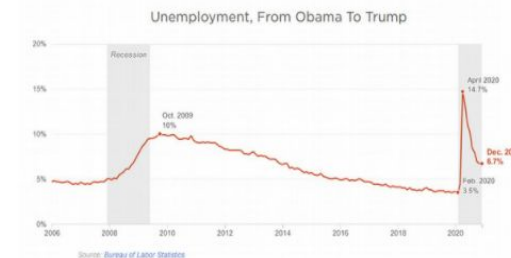
TeachOSM

TeachOSM - Open Mapping

Goal Teach spatial citizenship & geographic

Task Map your community on OpenStreetMap. [more»](#)

Where Global, anywhere on the planet



Identifying Social Structure through Citizen Science Data on Water Quality

Goal Participate in Crowd the Tap and Analyze

Task Establish Account, Conduct Research and [more»](#)

Step 2: Search SciStarter.org/finder

The projects and events on SciStarter.org represent a wide array of topics and research programs that participants from diverse communities and backgrounds can engage in anywhere, anytime, just once or on an ongoing basis.

What skills do I need to do citizen science?



When you do citizen science you are using **science process skills.**



Taking a Closer Look



PROJECT SQUIRREL

Help scientists better
understand tree squirrel
ecology.



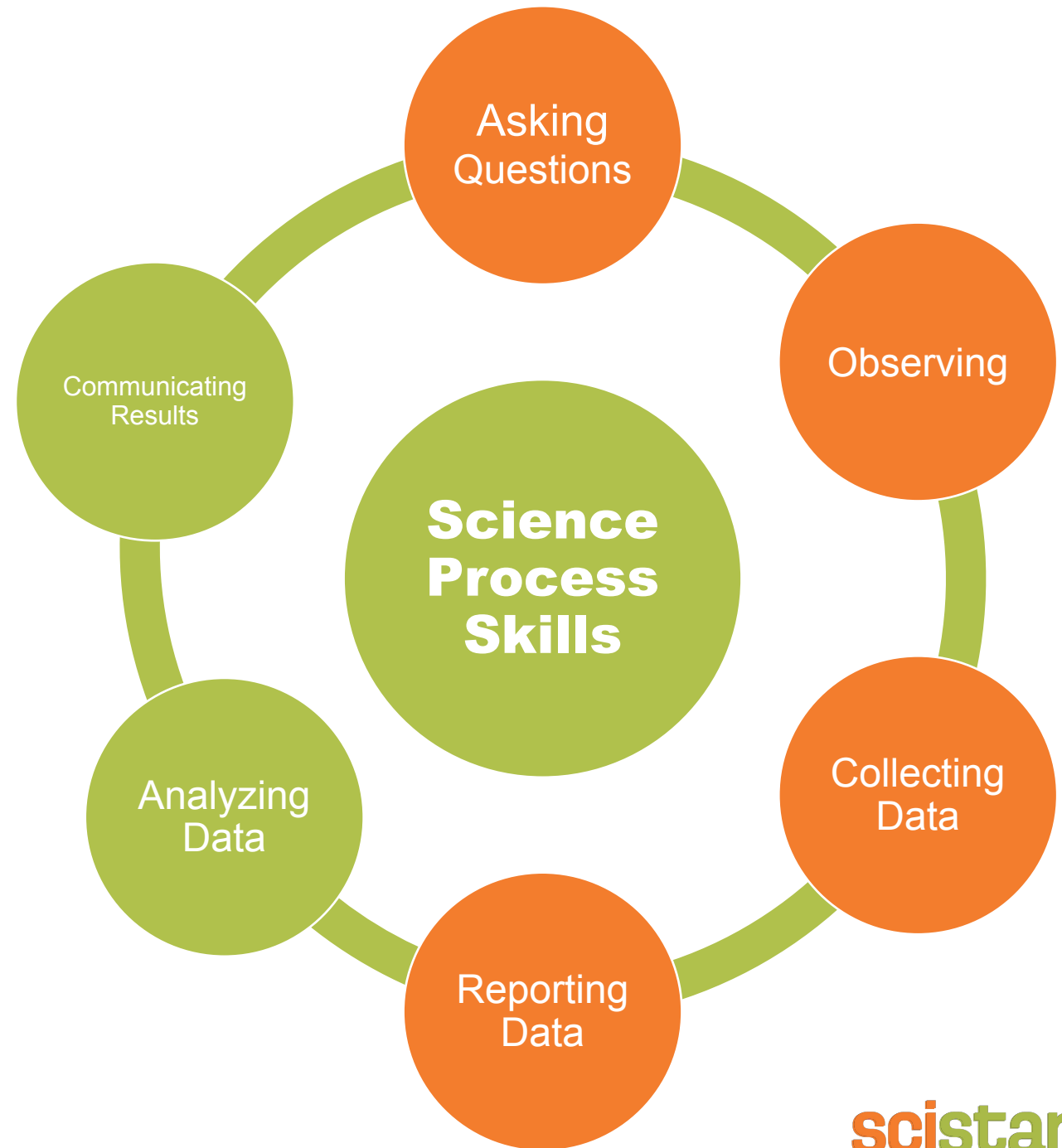
Let's Reflect

What skills did you practice while completing Project Squirrel?



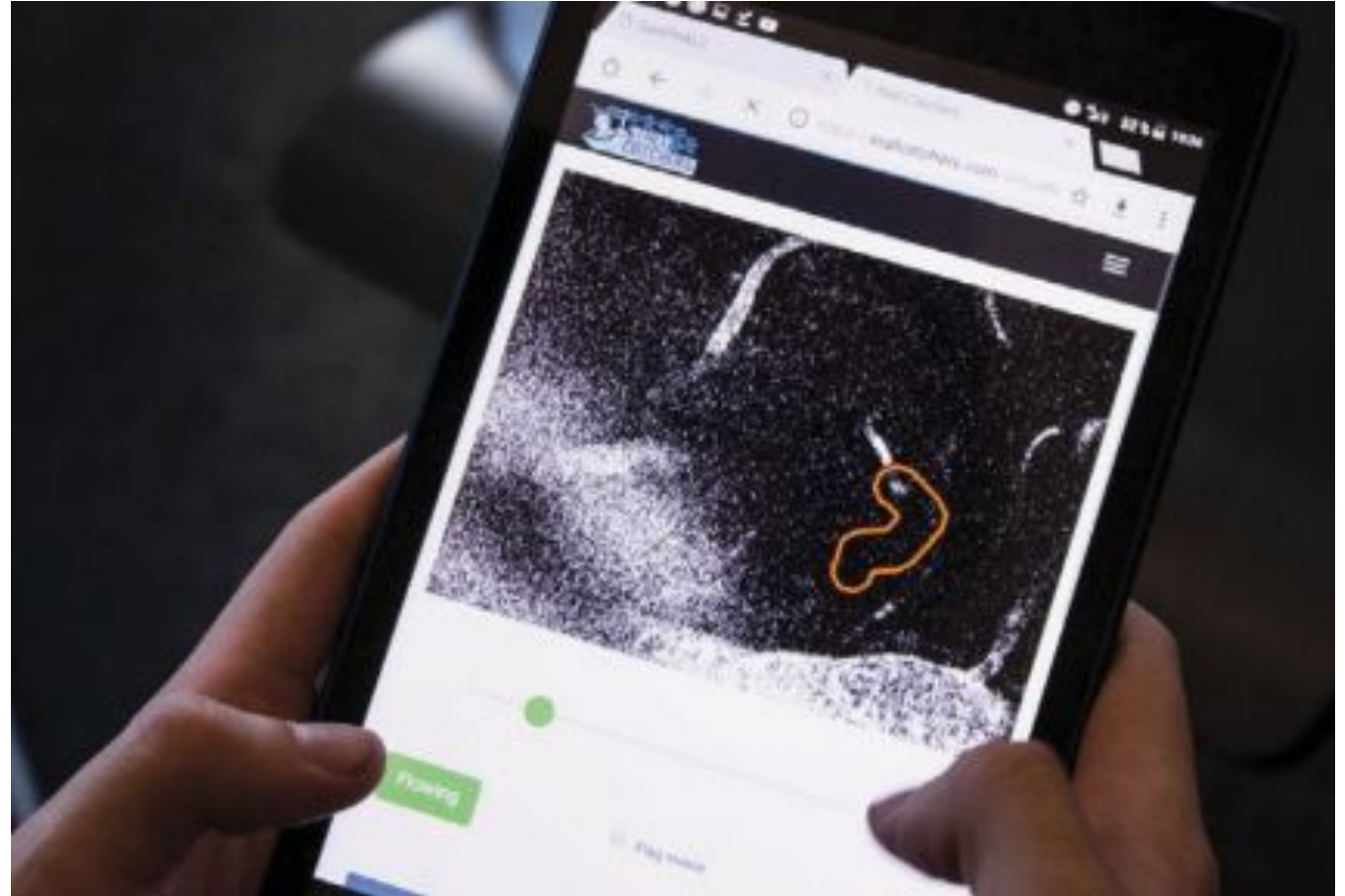
Let's Reflect

What skills did you practice while completing Project Squirrel?



Let's try a project!

https://media.scistarter.org/stallcatchers-demo/SCDemo_p1.html



Play a game to accelerate
Alzheimer's research. Let's try!

Enter Stall Catchers!



**>28 000
catchers**



**50-100
play every day**



**5x faster
research**



**1-2 months
per research
question**

CHECK
IT OUT!

CITIZEN SCIENCE

AT YOUR LIBRARY

Many libraries across the country are becoming hubs for citizen science, where you can access books, field guides, computers, Wi-Fi, subject matter experts, telescopes and other citizen science resources.

Some libraries are even housing Citizen Science Kits with specialized tools to check-out that can help you complete a project!

Visit SciStarter.org/Library for more information.





BROADENS THE SCOPE OF WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SCIENCE.



ENABLES PARTICIPANTS TO ENGAGE IN DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND INTERPRETATION.



ENABLES PARTICIPANTS TO LEARN ABOUT THE NATURE OF SCIENCE AND SCIENTIFIC REASONING.



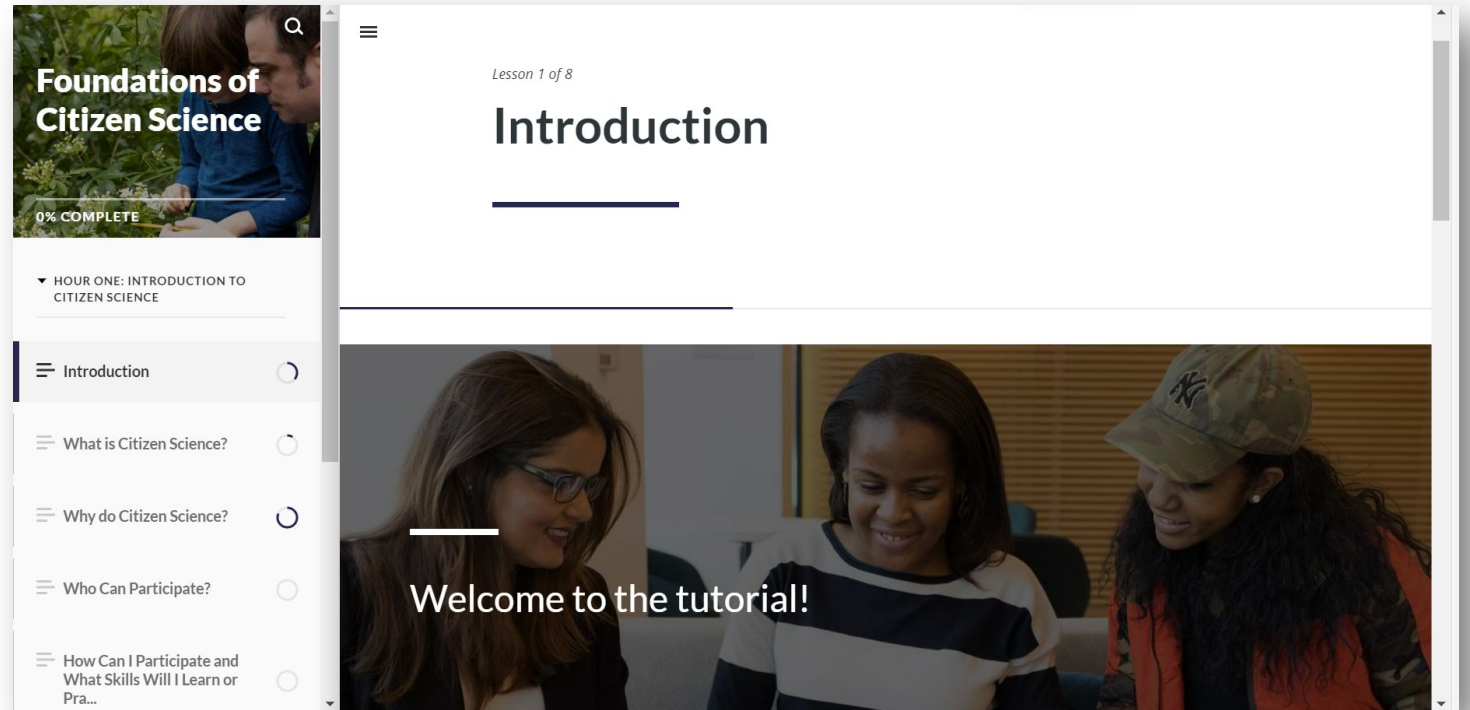
ACCELERATES IMPORTANT RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY.

Benefits to Science & Society

Citizen science enables people from all walks of life to actively learn more about the world and address issues they are curious or concerned about.

Now you're ready!

Complete the Foundations of Citizen Science Training and earn a badge.



The screenshot displays the SciStarter.org training interface. On the left, a sidebar shows the course structure for 'Foundations of Citizen Science', which is 0% complete. The sidebar lists the following lessons: Introduction (selected), What is Citizen Science?, Why do Citizen Science?, Who Can Participate?, and How Can I Participate and What Skills Will I Learn or Pra... On the right, the main content area shows 'Lesson 1 of 8' and the title 'Introduction'. Below the title is a video player with the text 'Welcome to the tutorial!' overlaid on a video of three women looking at a laptop.

Visit SciStarter.org/Training for more information.

Questions?
