

How do I identify the organisms in my cube?

A good aide to help you identify the plants and animals you may find are field guides and keys found in your school or local library. Some field guides try to cover a huge region or even an entire continent, but many libraries also provide guides that focus on local flora or fauna.

Many identification resources can also be found online, or as phone apps. Here are some of our favorite sites for finding guides and keys:

<http://eol.org/collections/108>

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/labs/cgi-bin/sbio/keys.asp>

<http://www.keytonature.eu/wiki/>

<http://www.backyardnature.net/i-ident.htm>

Getting to know naturalists in your area and asking for help with identifications is a great way to figure out who is in your cube. Perhaps the most powerful online tool is the expertise of online communities who also share interest in biodiversity. Some of these online communities are:

<http://www.Inaturalist.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/idpls/>

<http://www.Bugguide.net>

<http://www.Ebird.org>

Many resources exist to help you in your study of biodiversity. Some tools to measure environmental characteristics such as temperature, altitude, or soil composition may be available on your phone. A few places to start finding these tools are compiled here:

<http://brunalab.org/apps/>