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## Citizen Science

Citizen science is when scientists and citizens collaborate to conduct worldwide scientific research. Scientists create a citizen science program to capture widely spread data without spending additional funding from data collected from individuals and communities worldwide. Community-based groups may generate ideas and engage with scientists for advice, leadership, and program coordination. Citizen science is directed towards crowds instead of relying on individuals such as Einstein. This method of collecting data helps both scientists and all other parties that are involved.

Citizen science is like democracy. In a democracy, citizens are referred to as people who have rights, who partake in decisions. People have the authority to choose their governing legislation by voting. The future is in the hands of the many. Citizens observe the problems within their country, which then requires the society to help plan the best course of action to eliminate the problem. In Citizen Science, citizens have the right to participate in collective inquiry, collective hypothesis, and sharing data. Citizen science makes people think about how knowledge is made, who makes it, and whom it serves. Like democracy, the way scientists acquire information is by the people.

Participation in citizen science helps improve individuals understanding of a large variety of subjects. With a greater understanding in issues participants also gain a greater appreciation of different subjects and a deepened knowledge of a topic they are researching. Citizen science also gives participants a look at real-world problems along with the truth about said issues. For instance, plastic pollution has become a well-known problem due to citizen science, which in turn has begun to help solve said issue.

Citizen science has just recently become a new term even though people have been contributing to scientific research for many years. Wells Cooks, a member of the American Ornithologists Union, developed one of the original citizen science programs in the late 1800s. The program focused on the patterns of bird migration. The program became one of the first government programs. The program was named the North American Bird Phenology Program.

Over the year's Citizen Science was made easier as technology advanced. Technology, such as mobile applications, networks, and computer software, demonstrates a great potential for the advancement of Citizen Science. Technology allows for networking, easy communication, and a way of collecting data. Collectively, these and other technical methods combined have the potential to attract and motivate volunteers, improve data collection, control the quality, and increase the speed at which decisions are made.

Citizen science is an important aspect of how knowledge and decisions are made. It allows for data to get collected efficiently, create awareness concerning real-world problems, and allows science and change to be the responsibility of everyone. Citizen Science has been around for years and will continue to make advancements in the years to come.

## References

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