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| **Why, when, and how to cite sources of biodiversity specimen data** |  |

## Objectives

Upon completion of this activity, each student should be able to:

* Explain two or more reasons why it is important to properly cite biodiversity specimen data
* Identify circumstances in which one should cite the source of specimen data
* Describe how to find guidelines about how to cite a specific data source
* Create a citation according to a data source’s provided guidelines

**Introduction**

Citing sources is not only an important academic practice for writing papers; it is an essential part of using data, such as data related to biodiversity specimens. Although the data are publicly available, they are still subject to copyright and must be properly cited. This video explains why we cite data sources, when (in what context) it is appropriate to cite a data source, and how someone can go about creating a properly formatted citation.

**Activities**

Watch the video at the link below and complete the assessment on the next page.

<https://youtu.be/z7E6VvtNvpY>

**Assessment Page**

**Summative Assessment**

**Question 1**

You are working on a group presentation for your paleontology class. When one of your classmates sends you their slides, you notice that none of the images of fossil specimens on the slides have citations. How could you explain to your classmate why it is important to cite the source of the specimen images? Include at least two of the reasons mentioned in the video in your answer.

**Question 2**

You are giving a presentation to your classmates about the biology of raccoons. To demonstrate where raccoons live, you create a map of where raccoon specimens have been collected using data you downloaded from GBIF. Do you need to cite where you downloaded the raccoon specimen data, even though you aren’t conducting any analyses with the data?

**Question 3**

You are using the Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au/>), a database of Australian biodiversity data, to conduct a search for specimens (i.e., “occurrences”) of Lemon-scented gum tree (*Corymbia citriodora*). You request a download of the data and are sent an email with the download link and a digital object identifier (DOI): a unique number corresponding to the dataset that you requested. The DOI is https://doi.org/10.26197/5d7e678k8n64. Create a correctly formatted citation for this download as if you downloaded it today and were going to cite it in the references section of a poster presentation about your research project.