

# PIDGEON PROJECT

# ACADEMIE TIEN

Which methods and educational approaches can be utilized to instill an appreciation for the natural world in students and equip them with the skills needed to conduct meaningful research in the field of natural sciences?

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The students of the first-year and second-year at Academie Tien are introduced to Vivian Goerlich, a researcher and assistant professor at the University of Utrecht, through an engaging series of lessons. In the instructional series, students engage in an investigative study of the urban pigeon population within the city of Utrecht. Through this lesson series;

- Students have the opportunity to conduct research.
- They can explore the natural world simultaneously.
- Results of their inquiries are shared with Vivian.
- Students actively contribute to a real scientific research project.

Over 8 weeks, Academie Tien students complete a comprehensive research project through this structured approach:

- Weekly focus on specific research aspects.
- Writing corresponding sections during the week.
- Integration of fixed events, like data collection day, coordinated by Academie Tien.
- Successful completion of the research and report at the end of the 8 weeks.
- Forwarding student-gathered data to Vivian, a University researcher, for broader scientific contribution.

#### Successes, Challenges, and Insights:

- *Student involvement in genuine research boosts motivation and reduces data manipulation.*
- *Students recognize improvements in various research skills.*
- *Organizing off-campus activities is time and effort-intensive for teachers.*
- *Introducing research to first-year students requires streamlining while maintaining its core essence.*

**It doesn't matter  
what I hand in, it  
gets thrown out  
anyway**

Student Academie Tien

The reason why we consider it important for students to participate in real scientific research



Engaging students in genuine research from a young age is a priority for us, and here's why:

- **Critical Thinking:** Research skills are vital in navigating today's information-saturated world and discerning reliable sources.
- **Future Preparation:** Students transition from 'Future Citizen' to 'Future Scientist,' making it crucial to acquire foundational research knowledge.
- **Enthusiasm Building:** We aim to instill research enthusiasm in students early, nurturing their curiosity and passion for exploration.

**You'd be surprised  
how much nature  
there is in our own  
city**

Student Academie Tien



THANKS TO:



Universiteit  
Utrecht

≡kfheinfonds

