

Quarter 4- 4th Grade Animal Research Project

DUE : _____

This project is an integrated assignment covering science, writing, and reading curriculum. It is to be worked on at school through research and writing, as well as at home. The project consists of a written research paper, a visual, and a presentation at school. This packet will describe the expectations for all students. At the end of this packet is a checklist for teachers/guardians to initial when their student completes each step. Please have fun with this project!

Step 1: ANIMAL

Details about your assigned animal. For example, if you were assigned a fox, tell me which fox: Arctic, Fennec, Red Fox, etc. Please include the scientific name of your animal.

Step 2: RESEARCH

Begin researching your animal. We will have time to do this at school, but students may also wish to do additional research at home. You must have a minimum of three resources. The resources must include the following:

1. A nonfiction book. Students may choose a short, specific book on their animal or a book with an article/chapter on their animal. We will be taking books out of the school library, but feel free to use the public library as well.
2. An internet website of your choice. You will have some time during class to do research, but some will need to be done at home. Suggested sites include:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals/>

<http://www.seaworld.org/animal-info/animal-bytes/index.htm>

<http://animal.discovery.com/animals/>

<http://www.mbgnet.net/>

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/Animals/CreatureFeature>

<http://www.extremescience.com/zoom/index.php/animal-kingdom>

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/>

<http://www.kidsites.com/sites-edu/animals.htm>

3. The final resource may be of your own choosing. You might find information from another book, website, scientific magazine or encyclopedia.

4. You should also keep sources for any printed pictures of your animal and its habitat.

DONT FORGET TO WRITE DOWN THE NAMES OF EACH RESOURCE!

Step 3: REPORT

Once you have gathered your information, you must begin writing your report. Your report should be organized as follows: (Please double check to be sure that all of the information is included!) Your report should be either typed or *neatly* handwritten.

Title Page: Include a title, your name, and a picture or drawing of your animal

*****(Paragraphs should be a minimum of 5 sentences= 1 topic, 3 details, 1 concluding sentence)**

Paragraph 1: Characteristics/Introduction

- Write about the distinguishing features or interesting facts about your animal. Here you should give information regarding whether the animal is a vertebrate or invertebrate, and if it is a mammal, reptile, etc. What are the characteristics of that group of animals?

Paragraph 2: Habitat

- Describe the habitat your animal lives in (tundra, taiga, grasslands, mild forest lands, desert, tropical rain forest, saltwater shores, freshwater rivers, freshwater lakes and ponds, open sea-surface, deep sea, etc.)

Paragraph 3: Food

- Describe what food is available to your animal in its habitat and how it gets and eats its food. Please include an illustration of your animal's food chain. Extra credit points will be assigned if you also include an illustration of a food web which would include your animal.

Paragraph 4: Adaptations

- Describe different ways your animal has adapted its body or lifestyle to survive in its habitat (camouflage, is it a learned behavior or an inherited behavior, is it a body adaptation or a behavioral adaptation, etc.).

Paragraph 5: Impact of Human Effects

- Describe the impact of Human Effects on your animal's habitat.

Step 4: VISUAL AID

REQUIRED Diorama

- Construct a diorama, a three-dimensional scene which includes models of your animal in its habitat.

OPTIONAL

Cool Collage

- Create a collage showing pictures or 3-D items that relate to your animal and the research you found. Include facts on your collage.

Animal Planet Reporter

- Pretend you are a reporter from Animal Planet presenting a segment on your animal. Write a short script to help you decide what you will report on. Then, videotape your newscast. Remember to share the most interesting facts about your animal.

PowerPoint

- Create a PowerPoint presentation to outline the information in your report. Make your presentation exciting by adding pictures, animation, and a cool background. You will present to the class. You can either email or bring in a flash drive.

Step 5: GALLERY WALK

Students will have their written report and visual aid on their desk while other classes walk around and visit their peers. They should be expected to give a quick 2-3 minute explanation of their animal and visual aid. Practice for your oral presentation at the gallery walk. Your report and your visual aid will help you as you tell the audience about your animal.

Checklist Teacher/Parents

Date	Assignment	Teacher/Parent Initials
	Details about Chosen Animal	
	Intro Paragraph-rough draft	
	Habitat Paragraph-rough draft	
	Diet/Food Paragraph-rough draft	
	Adaptations Paragraph-rough draft	
	Reproduction Paragraph-rough draft	
	Final Report & Visual Aid Due	

Animal Research	Total Score	My Score
Name : _____ Specific Animal : _____		
Title Page/Cover	10	
Introduction/characteristics	10	
Food and diet	10	
Habitat	10	
Adaptations	10	
Impact of Human Effects	10	
Visual aide	40	
TOTAL POINTS	100	