

Ecosystems Project Guidelines

This is a research report on an Ecosystem. You will be writing a paper and creating a presentation for this assignment. You will need to use Google Documents on your Google Drive, and will also be using the 6+1 Traits of Writing. I will post links that you may use and also the steps of the 6+1 Traits on my website:

<http://mrhansons7thgradescience.weebly.com/>

When writing your report, you will need to focus on writing what you learn about the specific Ecosystem you have selected. Insure that you have topic sentences and details for each of your paragraphs. Format: Title page must include your title and the name of the Ecosystem, a nice picture of your Ecosystem or map showing where your Ecosystems is on Earth, your name, date, Period, and Mr. Hanson's 7th Grade Science Class. Paper must be double spaced, 14 font, with indent paragraphs. Your last page will be the, "Works Cited" page. Any website or print media you use must be cited (only five are needed). I use the MLA format for citing works. I will discuss this in class and will have the MLA Citation Generator website linked on my website. **WARNING: DO NOT COPY OR PASTE TEXT FROM THE INTERNET!!! BECAUSE I CAN EASILY FIND THIS OUT. YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO FOR THE REPORT AND ACADEMIC DETENTION.**

Research Paper Guidelines:

1. Title Page

2. Body of your Paper: This is your outline. Explanations and details.

- a. Introduce your Ecosystem. Where is your Ecosystem found on Earth, discuss unique features such as climate, geography, types of plant and animal organisms (biotic factors), and non-living (abiotic factors). Include temperatures, how much rain, etc.
- b. Name the populations of animals and decomposers in your Ecosystem, and describe each of their habitat's and niche's.
- c. Describe all the limiting factors that are unique to your Ecosystem (food, water, light, living space).
- d. Describe the animals and plants that are competing for food, water, light, and living space in your Ecosystem.
- e. Describe all the predators, and their prey and the relationship these animals have with one another.
- f. Give examples and explain the symbiotic relationships between animals. Describe one example of Mutualism, one example of Commensalism, and one example of Parasitism.
- g. Describe the various Producers and how they are important to your Ecosystem.
- h. Describe the various Consumers and how they are important to your Ecosystem. Describe at least two Herbivores, two Carnivores, two Omnivores, two Scavengers, and two Decomposers (what they eat and the unique part they play in your Ecosystem).
- i. Explain two food chains beginning with a producer and ending with a decomposer and describe the flow of energy using the animals and plants in your Ecosystem. (use terms like producer, primary consumer, secondary consumer, tertiary consumer when describing these organisms).
- j. Name the top (apex) predators in your Ecosystem.
- k. Choose an endangered predator and introduce it, give the common name, and scientific name (two word name).
 - i. What is the scientific classification of this animal (how is it classified)– List this beginning with the Kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species or sub-species names.
 - ii. What is its Habitat and Range, and Niche?
 - iii. How is it competing for food, water, living space, shelter, mates, nesting sites, etc.?

- iv. Statistics on numbers of this species - What is its Conservation Status or Species Survival Status?
 - v. Include the animals' appearance and anatomy, diet, locomotion, life cycle, age of maturity, reproduction, gestation period, behavior, type of consumer (carnivore, omnivore, herbivore, scavenger), are they a predator/prey, do they have symbiotic relationships with other organisms (mutualism, commensalism, parasitism), size and weight.
 - vi. Does it have any enemies, defenses, and does it cooperate with other organisms.
 - vii. You will need to write about the food web/chain and their place in it.
 - viii. Include some fun facts about your animal.
 - l. Write about some fun facts about your Ecosystem that may not be known.
 - m. Explain the dangers and threats that your Ecosystem faces. Is it being destroyed, and how is this being done.
 - n. Write a summary paragraph of the main things you learned about your Ecosystem.
3. **Citations Page:** Cite all your internet and print resources (you need only five) using the MLA Citation Generator on your last page entitled "Works Cited".

The **6 + 1 Writing Traits Rubric** is linked on my website. That is how you will be scored on your assignment. I will coach you through the process and provide lessons in class for every step of this writing process. Also, guidelines for the 6+1 Traits are linked.

The writing assignment (Ecosystem Paper) will be given on 24-25 February and will be due on 21 March. The project will be worth 100 points. Remember, have fun learning about the Ecosystem and animal you choose. By the time you finish, you should be the expert on this Ecosystem and animal, and will share your knowledge with the class.

ECOSYSTEM PROJECT PRESENTATION USING GOOGLE DOCUMENTS:

1. You can only have a maximum of 15 slides.
2. Slides must include:
 - a. You can use pictures, but sparingly – not on every slide. Use bullet points. Use presentation cards to practice.
 - b. Insure your text and backgrounds are easily seen. Font must be large enough for all to see. No transitions or animations. You do not need to list the websites you used.
 - c. Description of your Ecosystem and location on Earth.
 - d. Name some populations of organisms, their habitat and niches.
 - e. What are some limiting factors in your ecosystem.
 - f. Describe competition between organisms, and predator/prey relationships.
 - g. Give examples of some symbiotic relationships.
 - h. Name some consumers and what type of consumers they are and how they obtain energy.
 - i. Make one food chain involving the producers and consumers in your ecosystem.
 - j. Explain some of the dangers and threats to your ecosystem.
 - k. Introduce your endangered predator animal you selected in your ecosystem. Using bullet points answer the following: What is their conservation status. Explain their scientific name, their habitat, range, and niche, how it competes for food, water, living space, mates. How many are there left. Show a picture of the animal. Discuss diet (food it eats), age of maturity, gestation period, behavior, type of consumer. What are its enemies, defenses, and does it cooperate with other animals.

3. You will present to the class during the week of 24 March. It will be worth 100 points.