**Animal Research Report**

Today you will begin an animal research project. You are responsible for researching 5 different animals (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians…) Choose atleast one from category.

**Topics to Research and Include in Your Report**:  
When you write your report, try to answer as many of the following questions as you can (unfortunately, not all of these things are known for all animals):

* **The Animal's Name**: What does its [name](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/dinosaurs/allabout/Names.shtml) mean? Sometimes this will tell you something important or interesting about the animal. For example, platypus means "flat-footed."
* **Anatomy/Appearance**: What does your animal look like? How big is it? What shape is its body? What does an average one weigh? Does it have horns, antlers, fur, crests or claws? Describe the teeth, head, neck, tail, etc. How many legs does it have? Are its legs long or short? How many eyes and how many body parts does it have? Does it molt as it grows? Draw a picture if you can.
* **Locomotion**: Can your animal move? If so, how does your animal move (does it walk, fly, jump, burrow, etc.)? Is it slow-moving or fast-moving? Why is this important to its survival? For example, most fast-moving animals are fast so that they can catch dinner (like the cheetah) or avoid becoming dinner (like the deer).
* **Diet**: What does your animal eat and how does it get its food? Is it an herbivore (plant eater), carnivore (meat eater), omnivore (eating meat and plants), or something else? Is there something unusual in the way your animal eats? (For example, the flamingo sieves its food from mud while its head is upside down under the water.) Where is your animal in the [food web](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/rainforest/animals/Foodweb.shtml) (is it a top predator, like the grizzly bear, is it at the base of the food web, like krill, or is it somewhere in the middle)?
* **Habitat and Range**: What type of [biome](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/biomes/) does this animal prefer (does it live in the desert, swamp, tundra, deep sea, coral reef, tropical rainforest, pond, or other habitat)? Where in the world does it live? List the continent(s), country/countries, and/or smaller areas that it lives in.
* **Adaptations**: What are the obvious adaptations of your animal to its environment? For example, the giraffe's neck is an adaptation for obtaining leaves that are high off the ground. It also has tough lips to avoid thorns on its main food source.
* **Life Cycle/Reproduction**: Give information on the animal's life cycle and reproduction. For example, in the case of insects, list and describe each stage in the process of their metamorphosis. For a species of shark, describe whether it bears live young or lays eggs.
* **Behavior**: Describe interesting features of your animal's behavior. For example: Is there evidence of herding or is it a solitary animal? Does it burrow underground? Does it hibernate, estivate, or migrate in cold weather? Is it nocturnal (most active at night)?
* **Defense/Offense**: How does it defend itself (and/or attack other animals)? Does it use teeth, fangs, claws, armor, horns, antlers, pincers, poison, a stinger, muscles, a strong smell, and/or something else?
* **Enemies**: What animals eat or otherwise kill your animal? For example, for caterpillars, birds eat caterpillars, but wasps also lay their eggs in the caterpillars (and this eventually kills the wasp's unwilling host).
* **Species Survival Status**: Is this animal species in danger of extinction? If so, why? Has it lost habitat, lost a food source, or has it been overhunted?
* **Something Special**: Is there anything special about this animal? This can often be the best part of the report, taking you off on interesting topics. For example, are there legends about the animal?

**Citing Your References**: When you write your bibliography, list all of your references. Formats for each type of publication follows (there are different formats for different media):

* **Web Site:** Author(s) if appropriate. *Title of Site or web page*. URL of site, date of publication (the earliest copyright year listed).
* **Book:** Author(s). *Title of book*. Edition. Location of publisher: Name of Publisher, year of publication.
* **Encyclopedia:** *Title of encyclopedia*, volume of encyclopedia used. Location of publisher: Name of Publisher, year of publication, pages where the article is located.
* **Magazine or Journal:** Author(s). "Title of article." *Name of magazine*, Volume.issue (date): pages where the article is located.

**The Following is a Rubric For Assessing each Part of Your Research Report**:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **.** | **Beginning 1** | **Developing 2** | **Accomplished 3** | **Excellent 4** | **Score** |
| **Introduction** | Disorganized, no information on what is to come | Gives too little information. | Summarizes report | Concise, well-written introduction | . |
| **Research Part 1 (name, anatomy, locomotion, diet, habitat, range, adaptations)** | Does not cover all appropriate topics | Covers some of the appropriate topics. | Covers most of the appropriate topics. | All appropriate topics covered well. Also includes interesting facts. | . |
| **Research Part 2 (life cycle/reproduction, behavior, defense/offense, enemies, species survival status, classification, etc.)** | Does not cover all appropriate topics | Covers some of the appropriate topics. | Covers most of the appropriate topics. | All appropriate topics covered well. Also includes interesting facts. | . |
| **Spelling/Grammar** | Many spelling and grammatical errors | A few errors | Only one or two errors | Spelling and grammar perfect | . |
| **Presentation** | Illegible, messy | Almost illegible | Legible writing, accompanying illustrations | Well organized presentation, typed or written using a word processor, accompanying illustrations | . |
| **References** | No references | A single reference, incomplete citation | Several references with incomplete citations | Many references, listed in appropriate format | . |
| **Timeliness** | Over a week late | A week late | A day or two late | Handed in on time | . |

***Information to research about each animal***

* **The Animal's Name**
* **Anatomy/Appearance**
* **Locomotion**:
* **Diet**
* **Habitat and Range**
* **Adaptations**:
* **Life Cycle/Reproduction**
* **Behavior**:
* **Defense/Offense**
* **Enemies**
* **Species Survival Status**
* **Something Special**: