



## ANIMALS

### 1. Animal Observation

- a. Choose a natural environment to study animal life (pond, forest, grassland, swamp . . . even your own backyard!).
- b. Observe and record the following over a period of time (minimum of 2 weeks):
  - animal traces (tracks, droppings, homes/nests, webs, fur, feathers, effects on plant life)
  - animal activity (feeding habits, movement patterns, interaction with plants and other animals, sleep cycles)
  - animal environment (surroundings)
- c. Construct a model or draw a picture of your environment and its animal inhabitants.
- d. Write your responses to the following questions:
  - How do the animals interact with their environment? (regarding food, shelter and protection)
  - Has this environment been changed by people? If so, how might these changes affect the animal life?
  - What can you do to help preserve this natural setting?

### 2. Build a Bird Feeder

- a. Construct your own bird feeder (feeder must be conducive to providing a variety of bird foods).
- b. Observe your feeder.

- What kinds of birds does it attract?
  - What type of bird visited most frequently?
  - Which bird(s) came first?
  - Which birds come to eat at different times of the day?
  - What other animals come to the feeder?
  - What types of food did you use?
  - What is the most popular food at your feeder?
- c. Record your findings using one or more of the following:
- charts
  - graphs
  - photographs
  - time lines
  - drawings
- d. Write your responses to the following questions:
- How can you help birds in your neighborhood to survive?
  - Where do birds fit in the food chain? What would happen if there were no birds in our environment?

### 3. Wild Animal Study

- a. Choose a wild animal of interest.
- b. Research your animal using the following sources:
- encyclopedias
  - books and magazines
  - videos
  - Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- c. Record the following about your wild animal using diagrams or words:
- how it looks (physical description)
  - where it lives

- what it eats
- who its enemies are
- how it reproduces
- how long it lives
- d. Make a sculpture of your wild animal
  - clay
  - paper mache
  - popsicle sticks/toothpicks
  - cardboard/paper bags
  - wire
- e. Write your responses to the following questions:
  - How does your animal interact with its environment?
  - How can we preserve this environment?

#### 4. Insect Study

- a. Choose an insect to study.
- b. Research your insect using the following sources:
  - Ranger Rick magazine
  - books/encyclopedias
  - videos
  - DNR
- c. If possible, observe your insect in its natural setting.
- d. Record your answers to the following questions using diagrams or words:
  - What does your insect look like?
  - Where is your insect usually found?
  - Where/what is your insect's food supply?
  - How far does your insect travel per day/week etc?  
(estimate)

- What are the stages in your insect's life cycle?
- How does your insect reproduce?
- What does your insect spend most of its time doing?
- Does your insect have a special job?
- Where does your insect fit into the food chain?

e. Replicate your insect and its natural environment

- diorama (shoebox)
- 3D model (clay/playdough, popsicle sticks, paper, mobile...)
- painting or drawing

- or -

Bring in a live specimen creating their environment from natural materials

f. Write a letter to your insect addressing the following questions:

- Why is your insect important in our environment?
- Does your insect help people? If so, how?
- How do you feel your insect should be treated?
- Should your insect be protected or preserved?

## 5. Endangered Animal Interview

a. Choose an endangered animal to interview

b. Research your animal

- What kind of animal are you?
- What do you look like?

-Where do you live?

-What do you eat?

-How do you raise your young?

-How do you protect yourself?

-What are your enemies?

-Why are you endangered?

-What are some other interesting facts about you?

- c. Find or draw a world map showing where your animal can be found.
- d. Using the information you have researched, design an interview to answer the above questions. You may change or add to these questions. Be creative!
- e. Write your interview dialogue for both you and your endangered animal.
- f. Design a puppet to represent your animal.
- g. Practice your interview. Remember, you have **two** roles! (interviewer and animal)!
- h. Act out your interview for the judges.
- i. Write your response to the following question:
  - What needs to be done to save your animal?