

## Grade 4 Science Project: Habitats

Due Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010

You have been hired by the local zoo to build a habitat for the new animal they will be acquiring. You need to research what things the animal will need and be ready to present your findings to the zoo's management (the class).

As the person in charge of this particular habitat, you are being asked to build a model of what your habitat will look like. This model is to be in the form of a diorama. A diorama is a miniature scene with lifelike figures and objects set against a painted or coloured background. You can use a cardboard box, set on one long side as a sort of stage. In a diorama, the background is usually covered with painted or coloured scenery. The diorama's figures and objects are positioned in front of the fixed scenery. Remember that a habitat is the natural environment in which an animal usually lives.

The diorama is to include the following:

- The animal and its adaptations (e.g. webbed feet, long neck, spotted fur coat, claws, etc.)
- Flora (plants) and Fauna (other animals) that are found in the animal's natural environment
  - o This includes plants and/or animals that your animal needs to eat
- The main predator that preys on your chosen animal
- The most important characteristics of the physical environment in which your animal lives (e.g. forest, under water, prairie land, etc.)

### Hints and Tips

- Dioramas must show the animal in its natural habitat
- Dioramas should include at least one figure of the chosen animal
  - o This can be made from clay, cut-out pictures pasted on cardboard, or other materials that the student wishes to use
- Plastic animals may be used but are discouraged. Students are encouraged to show creativity when creating the diorama environment so that at least part of the project is hand-made
- Students are encouraged to use natural elements to craft their project to make the scenes as realistic as possible
- Please secure the pieces of your diorama with glue or other fasteners, so that nothing moves around
- Please: NO LIVING CREATURES!

### Presentation

Students will be expected to present their diorama to the class. Their presentation should be at least two minutes long, and they should explain the following points about the animal they selected:

- The name of the animal, and at least five quick facts about the creature
- The type of environment/habitat the animal lives in, including physical features, flora and fauna
- How the animal is adapted to live in its habitat (e.g. polar bears have partial webbed feet to help them swim)
- The animal's diet, and what animals prey on it

A written report is not required. The oral presentation will replace the written report for this project.

## Assessment

The following rubric will be used to evaluate the diorama.

Students are reminded that they must use original thoughts during their presentation – they should use their “own words”.

| <u>Diorama</u>  |   |   |   |                  |   |
|---|---|---|---|------------------|---|
| Includes the animal and its adaptations   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4                | 5 |
| Includes the animal's favourite food (plants and/or animals)                                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4                | 5 |
| Includes the most important characteristics of the physical environment in which the animal lives | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4                | 5 |
| Includes the main predator that preys on the animal   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4                | 5 |
| <u>Presentation</u>   |   |   |   |                  |   |
| Creativity and originality  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4                | 5 |
| Neatness (e.g. is the project tidy, neatly presented, nothing is falling apart, etc.)             | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4                | 5 |
| All required information about animal and habitat is included in oral presentation                | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4                | 5 |
| Oral presentation is organized logically  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4                | 5 |
| Reference to diorama during presentation  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4                | 5 |
| Presentation taken seriously  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4                | 5 |
| Total Mark  |   |   |   | out of <b>50</b> |   |