

Dear Students and Parents,

The children will be working in cooperative groups on a Science, Language and Technology Project. Each group will be given a habitat to research. Each child will choose an animal to research. Each child will be required to write a paragraph about the animal. The attached rubric outlines the expectations for this project.

A general outline follows. Use this outline as a checklist to monitor progress:

I. Each group will:

1. Write a paragraph that will:

- reflect the research done by all members
- provide a description of the environment (ex. climate, plants, animals)
- provide the location of the habitat on the earth (ex. continent, country)

2. Create a multimedia presentation about the habitat, including all student paragraphs, drawings and scanned pictures.

II. Each student will:

1. Research an animal, in school and at home
2. Write a short paragraph about the animal, including:
  - its name
  - a brief description (MUST INCLUDE what it eats and how it protects itself)
  - at least one interesting fact about the animal (ex. Is it endangered?)
  - how the animal fits into (is adapted to) its environment
  - a drawing of the animal in its environment

In addition, students will be expected to:

- proofread, edit and revise the paragraph
- hand in a "sloppy copy" for conferencing
- finish work neatly, completely and on time
- work cooperatively with group members
- use technology as directed
- make up a thoughtful question to e-mail to Scholastic Network's Will Waddel, an on-line zoologist

Please note: Not all questions will be answered. A thoughtful and interesting question has a better chance of being answered.

Students are encouraged to use resources that they have at home (ex. Internet, on-line encyclopedias, animal/habitat programs, encyclopedias, books, etc.)

Work is expected to be the students' original work. Parents are encouraged to help the students with the research at home. Also, parents can monitor the work for neatness and completeness.

As the project progresses, due dates will be assigned. It should be an enjoyable and enriching experience for all. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,