

Name _____

5th Grade Science: Animal Report

Animal _____

Report Due: April 24, 2014

Getting Started:

First, get to know about your animal. Read as much information about the animal as you can find. Try both the Internet and the library; try a good search engine, an encyclopedia, and individual books on animals.

Some good internet sites to search: <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/animals/creaturefeature/>
<http://www.zoobooks.com/> | http://www.stmary.pvt.k12.de.us/Lib_Animal.html
<http://www.goodsitesforkids.com/Animals.htm> | <http://www.kidsbiology.com/animals-for-children.php>
<http://switchzoo.com/animallist.htm> | <http://www.animalport.com>
<http://www.kidsplanet.org/factsheets/map.html> | <http://www.sheppardsoftware.com>

As you're reading about your animal, take notes on key information, such as where your animal lives (its range), what type of biome it lives in (its habitat), how big your animal gets, what it looks like, what it eats, what eats it, how long it lives (if this is known), etc.

The Structure of the Animal Report:

Start your report with an introductory paragraph that states the main ideas that you will be writing about. Then write at least four to five paragraphs that clearly describe your animal and how it lives. Each paragraph should cover one topic (for example, you should have one paragraph that covers the animal's anatomy). End the report with a closing paragraph that summarizes what you wrote and learned. Finally, cite 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.

Author(s) are listed last name first, first name or initials (as cited in the publication). For example: ZoomWhales.com would be cited as follows: Col, Jeananda. ZoomWhales.com. <http://www.ZoomWhales.com> 1999.

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 mean? Sometimes this will tell you something important or interesting about the animal. For example, platypus means "flat-footed." For some animals, there are special names for a baby, a male, a female, or a group. Also, list your animal's scientific name; this should consist of a capitalized genus name and a lower-case species name. For example, the platypus is *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*.

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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 (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 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: Give information on the animal's life cycle. 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, and how many young it has. Describe at what age they become independent and how long your animal lives.

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).

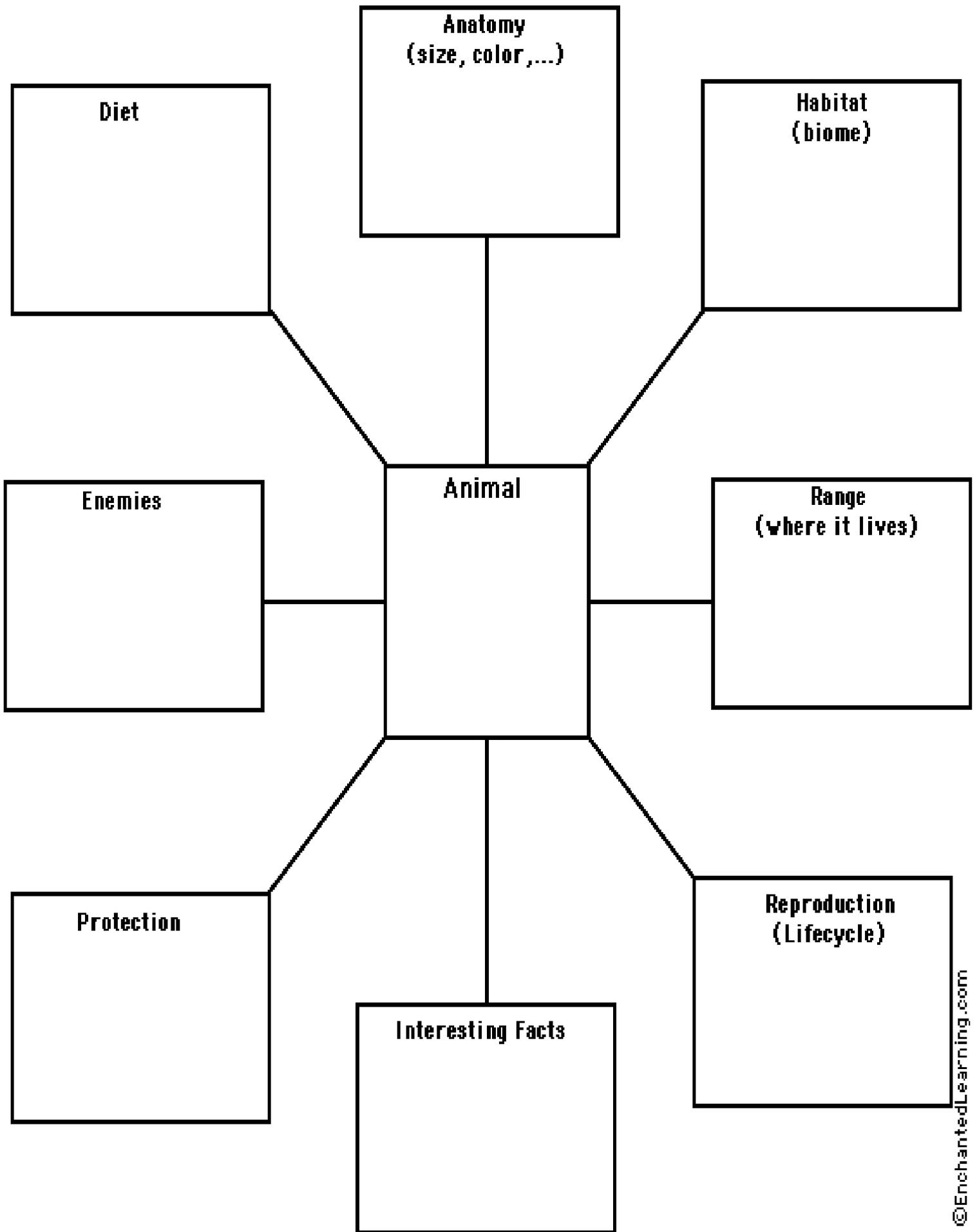
Species Survival Status: Is this animal species in danger of extinction? If so, why? Has it lost habitat, lost a food source, or has it been overhunted?

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?

Classification: How is this animal classified and what animals is it closely related to? In the Linnean system of classification, organisms are classified into a Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, and species. For example, elk are classified as follows: Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Chordata, Class Mammalia (mammals), Order Artiodactyla, Suborder Ruminantia (ruminants), Family Cervidae (the deer family), Genus Cervus, species *C. elaphus* (species names are often italicized and written in lower-case; the C. here refers to the genus Cervus).

Animal Report Checklist

- Introductory Paragraph
- 4-5 Paragraphs Describing Your Animal
- Closing Paragraph
- References Cited
- Proofread and Turn In Final Copy



African Elephant
African Lion
Agama Lizard
Alligator
Anemone Fish
Aquatic Beetle
Arctic Wolf
Atlantic Oval Squid
Bactrian Camel
Badger
Barn Owl
Bearded Dragon
Bengal Tiger
Bighorn Sheep
Bison
Black Lechwe
Black Swallowtail
Caterpillar
Blue Jay
Blue-billed Firefinch
Brown Pelican
Candy Darter
Capybara
Caracal
Cardinal
Caribou
Cat
Caterpillar
Celebes Ape
Chameleon
Cheetah
Chimpanzee
Collared Lizard
Cougar
Crowned Crane
Dall Sheep
Desert Iguana Dingo
Dog
Dollar Sunfish
Dolphin
Donkey
Dragonfly
Eland
Emerald Boa
Emu
Flamingo
Flower Loving Fly
Fulgorid
Gemsbok
Giant Anteater
Giant Panda

Giant Tortoise
Giraffe
Glossy Starling
Goatfish
Golden Hamlet
Grasshopper
Gray Angelfish
Gray Wolf
Great Egret
Great Horned Owl
Great Plains Skink
Green Anole
Green Treefrog
Green Water Snake
Ground Squirrel
Guinea Pig
Hadada Ibis
Hippopotamus
Horse
Impala
Jackrabbit
Jaguar
Kangaroo
Koala
Kodiak Brown Bear
Kookaburra
Leaf Katydid
Leopard
Lesser Sandhill Crane
Little Sparrowhawk
Locust
Locust Borer
Mandrill
Marmot
Masked Weaver
Mastigodryas
Mountain Goat
Mute Swan
Nile Monitor Lizard
Nyasa Lovebird
Oak Toad
Ocelot
Octopus
Oedemera
Orange-striped Triggerfish
Orca
Painted Stork
Patas Monkey
Pig
Polar Bear
Praying Mantis

Pronghorn Antelope
Puffin
Raccoon
Raven
Red Fox
Red Squirrel
Red-billed Hornbill
Red-eyed Tree Frog
Ring-tailed Lemur
Rooster
Rough Green Snake
Ruffed Lemur
Sable Antelope
Sailfin Tang
Scarlet Macaw
Scottish Highland Sheep
Secretary Bird
Shetland Pony
Snowshoe Hare
Snowy Egret
Spanish Flag
Spotted Trunkfish
Tayra
Toad
Turkey Vulture
Unicorn Fish
Wahlberg's Eagle
Wallaby
Walrus
Wapiti
Warthog
Waterbuck
White Rhinoceros
Wild Turkey
Wildebeest
Woolly Spider Monkey
Yellow-billed Hornbill
Yellow-billed Stork
Yellow-throated Longclaw
Zebra