

VITAL INFORMATION

Grade: 6

Subject: Science, Understanding Life Systems

Topic: Needs and Characteristics of Living Things

Suggested Prerequisite Knowledge/Skills: Some knowledge of computer research, and an ability to work independently to take notes.

Time Allotment: 1 computer class period, 30 min or more.

* Some extra time will be needed for students' research on computers.

Objective:

1. Students will learn the characteristics of marine and land mammals.
2. Students will learn the diversity between mammals and fish.
3. Students will learn the basics of reproduction and offspring within the mammal community.

Summary: Students will explore Marineland of Canada's website and use the information learned to complete an informative brochure.

IMPLEMENTATION

Introduction:

1. Students will independently, or as a group, use a computer to access Marineland of Canada's website (www.marinelandcanada.com)
2. Students will then follow the web quest directions to explore the website and answer questions.

Activity: Students will then be given time to research their own assignments. The assignment is as follows:

- Congratulations! You have been hired by Marineland of Canada to research and create an informative brochure. Choose one marine mammal, and one land mammal from Marineland's website. For your brochure you should have information on the mammals' appearances, habitats, diets and their reproduction and offspring. Include any interesting outside information you have learned about the mammals. In the brochure you will make note of the similarities and the differences between the marine mammal and the land mammal you have chosen. Include pictures to aid the readers in their understanding of the mammals.

* Attached to the brochure handout is an explanation of the assignment as well as a marking scheme.

Closure: To complete this assignment, have the students explain their brochure to their fellow students. This can be in partners, small groups or in front of the entire class.

* As an extra I recommend having the students marked by their peers. Have one student mark one of their classmate's brochures. In the end, each student will have marked one assignment.

MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

Instructional Materials:

- Webquest handout
- Brochure handout

Resources:

- The 2007 revised Science and Technology, Ontario curriculum, grades 1-8.
- Sciencesaurus: A student handbook. (2006) By: Great Source education group, A Houghton Mifflin Company.

Technology:

- Students should have access individually or in groups to a computer with internet.

EXPECTATIONS & ASSESSMENT

Expectations from the Ontario Science Curriculum Grade 6:

2. Developing Investigation and Communication Skills

- Use scientific inquiry/research skills to compare the characteristics of organisms within the plant or animal kingdoms.

3. Understanding Basic Concepts

- Describe interrelationships within species.

Assessments:

- The marking scheme for the brochure assignment is attached to the brochure handout.