Tracing an animal’s Evolutionary Past: Evolution Honors Project (75 points)

DUE December 14, 2015 (5 Bonus points if you turn it in early)

Students will select a species of their choice and track its evolutionary history from bacteria to the organism. Students will create a “family tree” or timeline that visually displays the animal’s evolution. Students will also write a story (scientific or humorous) that tells the animal’s evolutionary story. This should include important traits that got passed from one species to the next. Also, what traits survived the 5 extinctions.

Students may create a “family tree” visual representation of their evolutionary tree in a poster, a video, or a comic book style document. This may also be a timeline of events that led from the original bacteria to the current organism. The timeline must show the traits and events that occurred to lead up to the animal at present.

Students must write a one page (hand written or typed) reflection that describes what they learned. Some ideas to address are: What did I learn from the research process? Was it hard to find information? What did I learn about the animal? What was interesting about the animal’s evolution? What were the traits that made it adaptable to environmental changes?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | What I am looking for | Grade (out of 10) |
| Accuracy (family tree and written description) | Traits are accurately described as they develop over time, there are no gaps, and the information is accurate according to published research | /25 |
| Completeness | The project is 100% complete | /10 |
| Neatness | The project is easy to understand, organized, and clearly demonstrates a planned and well thought out project | /10 |
| Sketches | Traits are accurately portrayed in sketches, please trace if you are uncomfortable drawing. | /10 |
| Overall Awesomeness | Depth of knowledge, attention to detail, and aesthetic appearance are considered. Bonus materials like where the animals lived over time will add to Awesomeness | /10 |
| Learning Reflection | Students describe what they learned throughout their project, this can be about the research process or the animal itself. | /5 |
| Citations | Citations to be in MLA format (1 point per citatation) | /5 |
| Turned in Early | Yes or No | /5 |
|  | TOTAL | /75 |

Ms Leigh will happily answer questions or concerns throughout the project. Contact me by email: [mleigh@lotusschool.org](mailto:mleigh@lotusschool.org) or you can send me questions through my website: msleighscience.weebly.com

Examples of family trees (not the entire project but the family tree part):



