

## The Vertebrate Habitat

**PURPOSE!** The purpose of this activity is for you to gather all the information you can about your assigned vertebrate, and create a visual display for your fellow scientists and an essay about your animal.

**WHERE TO FIND YOUR FACTS!** You will need to journey on a variety of roads as you travel down the Information Trail. This means you will use at least three (3) resources for this assignment:

\* Encyclopedias

\* Resource books – text book, trade book

\* Internet – class research, after school, or home approved

### **VERTEBRATE CATEGORIES TO SELECT FROM!**

\*\* Random selection will be completed in class.

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**Vertebrates:** Mammal, Reptile, Amphibian, Fish, Bird

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**GATHER YOUR FACTS!** You will be conducting your research during class. At the end of this journey, you will need to know the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Physical Characteristics** of your vertebrate: (10 or more)

- What does your vertebrate look like – physical traits?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Map** of where your vertebrate lives: (map)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Biome/Habitat** of your vertebrate: (5 or more)

- In what biome does your vertebrate live?
- Where the specific locations are your vertebrate can be found?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Adaptations** of your vertebrate: (10 or more)

\*You should be able to find something for each adaptation.

- Life Cycle – How does your vertebrate develop?
- Defenses – How does your vertebrate protect itself?
- Reproduction – How does your vertebrate create more of itself?
- Movement – How does your vertebrate move within its environment?
- Body Systems – Does your vertebrate have special body organs or systems?
- Diet (feeding and eating) – What and how does your vertebrate eat?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Challenge Questions** about your vertebrate:

**(You will answer two (2) of the challenge questions!!)**

**Circle the two (2) Challenge questions you are interested in answering.**

1. Describe how this vertebrate's adaptations help it to survive within its habitat/ecosystem?
2. If your vertebrate is on the verge of endangerment, explain how it can be protected?
3. Discuss what would happen to this vertebrate if it was taken out of its habitat/ecosystem, and raised as a pet?
4. Identify your vertebrate's place in its habitat/ecosystem's food chain.

5. Explain what would happen to this vertebrate if it was born without an adaptation needed for survival in its habitat?
6. Identify what could happen if there was an environmental change in your vertebrate's habitat/ecosystem.
7. Explain how competition for food may affect your vertebrate's population in its habitat/ecosystem.

**The 3D MODEL!** Create a 3D model that provides an accurate visual display of your vertebrate living in its appropriate habitat. **HINT: 3D means that your project should NOT be flat!!!!!!!!!!**

\_\_\_\_\_ Accurately represent your vertebrate's physical characteristics.

\_\_\_\_\_ Accurately represent your vertebrate's appropriate biome/habitat.

**\*\*\*\* This portion of the project will be worth 30 points of your final grade!**