

# 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ANIMAL REPORT

## **Purpose**

The San Diego Zoo has hired you to help set up their animal exhibit. They need you to research an animal. The zoo director will use your research to create a habitat. Remember to pay close attention to the adaptations of your animal. These adaptations help your animal live within their environment. Also, you will use your research to care for the animal. Therefore, it is extremely important that during your research you pay close attention to facts regarding your animal's description, habitat, life cycle and food chain. Make sure you find out some interesting facts about your animal that you, the zookeeper, can share with visitors.

## **The Requirements**

Your task will be to produce a seven paragraph research report for the zoo director. We have learned that all paragraphs need to contain a topic sentence, at least three details, and a conclusion. Your research report will have a paragraph on each of the following: description of animal, habitat, life cycle, food chain, adaptations, interesting facts and conclusion. You must also include a colorful front cover, title page, table of contents, and bibliography. You must give an oral presentation of your findings to the San Diego Zoo director and board. If you do a terrific job, you will be retained as a zookeeper.

## **Resources**

You will be required to use at least 2 different sources for your research report. You will find lots of books about animals in our school library and can even make a visit to the public library. Magazines such as ZooNooz can be a good resource also. The following is a list of internet sites:

yahooligans.com is a great search engine. When you get there, just type in what you are looking for!

seaworld.org is a terrific web site for marine animal research. You can obtain many facts about your animal.

animalomnibus.com is a great sit to visit to get more information on animals. You might need help finding your animal, so ask a parent to help you.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/wildfacts/> at this website you can find out interesting facts. You can type in your animal's name to locate pictures and information.

## **The Process**

- 1) Decide on an animal to research. No domesticated animals please.
- 2) Gather your sources and READ them!
- 3) Write down facts as you read on the facts research sheets. You are not writing complete sentences, just the main ideas. Remember that this information is what you will be using to write complete sentences from for your report.
- 4) Make sure you find information for the following areas of your report:
  - A. Description
  - B. Habitat
  - C. Life Cycle
  - D. Food Chain
  - E. Adaptations
  - F. Interesting Facts
- 5) Your teacher will check to make sure all notes are complete.
- 6) Next, let's take a break from research and design the front cover of your research report. Your cover needs to have a realistic, colorful illustration. You also need to include the title and author of report. (YOU are the author!)

7) You are ready to begin writing your rough draft! Your teacher will give you a rough draft format to use for your 7 paragraphs. You will take the information from your research fact sheets and write a complete paragraph for each of the seven areas. You will be required to write a topic sentence, at least three detail sentences, and a conclusion for each paragraph. (Each paragraph must have at least 5 sentences to be complete)

8) When your rough draft is complete, you will turn it in and your teacher will make revisions.

9) After you have had a conference with your teacher you will be ready to type your first draft on your NEO. Please type your report on **file 8**. **BE CAREFUL NOT TO DELETE YOUR WORK!**

10) After you have completed your first draft, print a copy. **Edit this copy for any spelling, grammar, and punctuation mistakes.**

11) Make final corrections on NEO.

12) Now you are ready to get a copy of the continent sheet from your teacher. **Color and label** the continent on the world map that your animal lives on.

13) Now you need to create a Bibliography. Your teachers will instruct you on the proper format. We will work on this in the computer lab as a class.

14) Organize all of your pages in the following order:

Title page

Content in the following order:

A. Description

B. Habitat

C. Life Cycle

D. Food Chain

E. Adaptations

F. Interesting Facts

G. Conclusion

World Map

## Bibliography

### Fact sheets and Rough Draft

15) HOORAY! You're almost done! Prepare for your oral presentation. Make sure you present your information in an organized way. You may make notes on note cards. Your presentation should be no more than 2 minutes long. You will want to practice this at home.

CONGRATULATIONS! Your research mission is now complete. You have accomplished a tremendous task and should be very proud of your efforts. You have utilized internet, non-fiction books, and magazines to obtain facts about your animal. You have completed every step of the writing process. You have a complete research report and have given a presentation to the class on the information you learned. You're a terrific zookeeper and your animal is lucky to have you!

PARENTS: Please read through this document and sign below. Most of this report will be done in class. Guide your child in choosing an animal that they would like to learn more about. Return this entire document to school by Monday, October 24

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_

Animal \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please make sure that your student has all books/internet sources/magazines at school by Wednesday, November 2. We will begin taking notes that day.

# FACTS about your animal

## A. Description ( paragraph 1)

1) \_\_\_\_\_

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2) \_\_\_\_\_

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6) \_\_\_\_\_

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7) \_\_\_\_\_  
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## FACTS about your animal

### B. Habitat ( paragraph 2)

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
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2) \_\_\_\_\_  
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3) \_\_\_\_\_  
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## FACTS about your animal

### C. Life Cycle ( paragraph 3)

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
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## FACTS about your animal

### D. Food Chain ( paragraph 4)

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7) \_\_\_\_\_  
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## FACTS about your animal

### E. Adaptations ( paragraph 5)

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7) \_\_\_\_\_  
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## FACTS about your animal

### F. Interesting Facts ( paragraph 6)

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
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7) \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Paragraph 1 (Description)

Topic sentence

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Supporting Detail sentences (at least 3)

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Concluding sentence

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## Paragraph 2 (Habitat)

Topic sentence

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Supporting Detail sentences (at least 3)

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Concluding sentence





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### Paragraph 5 (Adaptations)

Topic sentence

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Supporting Detail sentences (at least 3)

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Concluding sentence





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## Paragraph 7 (Conclusion)

Topic sentence

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Supporting Detail sentences (at least 3)

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Concluding sentence

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