**NEWSLETTER**

**Background**

*“Species and ecosystems on Earth and the ecological processes of which they are a part of are being stressed by urbanization and the expansion of human industries such as agriculture and forestry. The resulting decline in genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity threatens the ecological, economical, and cultural benefits we currently derive from Earth’s living resources. The extinction of some species, the decrease in population of other species and the degradation of ecosystems reduces biological diversity on Earth.”*  – Science in Action 9

**Assignment**

Your assignment is to create a newsletter to educate the public about a threatened/endangered species on Earth. Choose one of the 12 species at **raysweb.net/specialplaces** and create a newsletter that educates the public on issues such as: (if you are wanting to choose another animal that lives outside of Alberta or is not indicated on this site, please discuss with Ms. Booth or Mr. VK).

* The changes in the environment in which the species lives and the impact those changes have on the survival of that species *(ex. Why the species is threatened or endangered? What is happening within the ecosystem in which it lives that is contributing to its population decline?)*
* The success and limitations of various local and or global strategies developed to help minimize the decline of the species *(ex. What is being done on a local or global level to help the species survive)*

**Design**

In your newsletter you will discuss and be assessed on how you address the following questions. Think of each of these points as a paragraph. If you choose to do multiple articles that are smaller in length, you can choose to cover one or some of these points in those articles, rather than doing one large essay style article. You can complete each of these articles separately, then glue them onto a large piece of paper, staple them together as multiple documents, or lay them out digitally (see image below). Keep in mind that you will have visuals (listed in the checklists below) so you will need to think about how you’ll want to present this.

* How is the environment in which the organism living changing?
* What is causing these environmental changes?
* How are these changes impacting the organism?
* What current techniques are being used to manage/protect your organism- how can people donate time, money and or other resources to help save this species?

**Other Considerations for creating your newsletter**

Your newsletter will include a variety of other important information. The table below outlines all the necessary components to include in your article and can be used as a checklist to ensure you do not miss anything.

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| ***Component*** | ***Description*** | ***Check when complete*** |
| Newsletter Title | Title should be easy to read and should highlight the common name of the organism you are studying. |  |
| Scientific Name  *Genus species* | Include this under your title. |  |
| Map of organism’s habitat | Use color code to show where this animal is found. |  |
| Picture and/or diagram of the organism | Include a colored picture of your species. |  |
| Description of Organism | In point form list the major identifying characteristics below your picture.  If males and females are different size or have different coloration include a description. |  |
| Unique Features | Discuss any features that are unique to the organism  (Ex. Unusual habits or characteristics) |  |
| Reproduction | Summarize the reproductive strategies your organism uses.  Include any unique courtship or mating behaviors. |  |
| Food | Describe the main food sources your organism relies on for survival.  Describe how it obtains its food source. |  |
| Current status | Describe the current environmental status of your organism worldwide. |  |

 