

Pre-AP Biology

Summer Assignment 2011



PreAP Biology students,

In order to receive credit for preAP biology, you must complete a summer assignment that the regular biology students do not have to do. You will be required to participate in the dissection, complete a novel study, and submit the summer assignment all as part of the preAP biology course.

In order to complete the summer assignment, you are to locate, identify, and observe an organism that lives in your backyard. The *preference* is that the organisms not be domesticated. You are to keep a journal of the activities, development, and growth of the organism. The observations are to be recorded in a bound composition notebook. Number the right hand pages of your notebook, and write only on the right hand side. Handwrite in pen and white out is NOT permitted. Additional specifications for the journal are included on the data table on the following page.

The summer assignment will count as a test grade in the first six weeks grading period and will be due the first week of school. In the preAP biology course, the major grades are worth 70% of your grade, so it is very important that this project be complete, submitted on time, and be of high quality. You will ONLY submit your journal during the first week of school. It is not a requirement to submit a powerpoint or display board in addition to your journal.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Keeley Lowery via email at keeley.lowery@southlakecarroll.edu. Mrs. Lowery can answer any questions that you have regarding the expectations of preAP biology and the summer assignment. She will also leave samples of past projects down in the office if you are interested in seeing the final product. Mrs. Lowery will be checking her email weekly during the summer, so do not stress if you do not hear back immediately from her.

preAP Biology teachers

Due Date : During the 1st week of school
*all summer assignments are individual projects

Pre-AP Summer Assignment

Page #	Description	Point Value
1-2	Table of Contents	
3	Identification of organism Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species	5
3	Species – Introduced or Native Is this organism an introduced species or is it native to this area in Texas? If it is an introduced species, where is it's native home and does it have the potential to become an invasive species?	5
4	Habitat description Describe the organism's habitat in detail . What does it live in, on, or around? Describe the other organisms living in its community.	5
5	Drawings of organism Color and label the drawing. You MUST use the attached directions for this!	7
6	Food Web Design a food web that includes your organism. What does it eat and what eats it? Then continue the food web out to at least 8 organisms. The web should also have the sun as the major source of energy.	8
	Journal entries There must be at least 15 entries spread over the summer . These will <i>include your data and detailed observations</i> . You cannot have 15 entries within the last 2 ½ weeks of summer. Entries should describe what the organism is doing, mention the changes in habitat, record of data that you are taking and thoughts/reflections about what you are observing.	20
	Data Table Gather <u>MEASUREABLE</u> data on your organism. Create a data table to summarize all of the data that you collected over the summer. Some examples of measureable data include height of organism, number of leaves, or number of organisms.	10
	Photographs - Photos must have a DATE stamp on photo. There are to be a minimum of 10 photographs of your actual organism placed in your journal. These are <u>not</u> to be images from the internet of an organism like yours. The photos should be taken at <i>different points</i> over the summer. Insert the photos along with the corresponding journal entry.	10
	Graph of DATA Use the data that you have collected to create at least one graph. Be sure to include titles and subtitles. Additional graphs of data will be awarded additional points.	20
	Enhancements – You must complete any two.	10
	Interview - Interview an <u>expert</u> on the organism that you are observing. This should not be a parent or neighbor. Your interview can be online via email.	
	Volunteer hours - Volunteer at a local nature center, garden, or park.	
	Video - Short video of your organism in action.	
	Essay – Two page, handwritten essay about your organism. It should be placed into your laboratory notebook.	
	Professional Photo – Select one of your photos that you would consider of professional quality. Print the photo as an 8 ½ x 11. Framing is completely optional.	

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Rules for Sketching a Biological Diagram

1. Always draw in pencil. Begin drawing lightly, in case you have to erase. Try to erase as little as possible. Use colored pencils to make complex drawings easier to read.
2. Always print.
3. Leave at least 2.5 cm (1 inch) margin on all four sides of the paper. (Only the heading should be written within the margin).
4. Always title your drawings using all capital letters.
5. Center your drawing on the paper (Don't forget to leave room for your labels).
6. Always use a ruler to label the parts of your sketch.
7. Do NOT underline your labels.
8. Take care to keep the words horizontal; label lines, however, do not need to be kept horizontal.
9. Never allow two label lines to cross.
10. Place one end of the label line directly on the object you are labeling and the other end at the start of the word. Do NOT use an arrow.
11. Use the singular form of a word when pointing to a single object or part. If you need to point to two of the same parts (for clarity), use the plural form of the word.
12. In places other than the title, capitalize the first letter of the genus (or first word) of a scientific name when using the scientific name of an organism. The species (or second word) of a scientific name should never be capitalized. For example, *Canis familiaris* is the scientific name for a dog. In a title, it would be written *Canis familiaris* or *Canis familiaris* because it should be written in italics or be underlined.

