Biology

Mr. Oxford

December 16, 2013

**Animal Evolution Project**

Charles Darwin may be the most influential figure in modern scientific thinking with his simple, seemingly obvious observations regarding the nature of the phenomenal world. Charles Darwin concluded that the explanation for the miraculous complexity of life on planet earth was due to a few simple truths in biological systems. Not only does Darwin’s theory of natural selection neatly explain the origin of species but also offers significant insight into the deep nature of the material world in all the scientific disciplines.

For this project you will research the evolutionary history of a modern organism. You will work independently, or in groups of two. You will be expected to find the modern organism's earliest ancestors and describe in general terms the intermediate species, which describe the arc of its evolution. Since Darwin contended that each organism met the test for survival you should be able to describe some of the adaptations that define your organism. You should also provide a timeline for your organism’s evolution.

\*YOU MAY USE YOUR PREVIOUS NOTES.

\*YOU MAY USE THE INTERNET…but don’t forget to list your websites!

***You will have three (4) days to complete this assignment.***

*Tentative Schedule to work toward:*

**1. Paper is due Wednesday, 12/18.**

**2. Completed PowerPoint is due Thursday, 12/19.**

**3. You will present your findings and turn everything in on Friday, 12/20.**

**Part 1:** Select one of the following organisms (or come up with your own suggestion):

ELEPHANT              HORSE            TIGER            WHALE        CROCODILE DOG             BEAR              SLOTH            BIRDS             SHARK       LIZARD MAN RHINOCEROS              GIRAFFE         CAMEL EEL

**Part 2:** PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

For this project you will complete the following:

1.) PowerPoint - The Slides should have interesting photos with short, accurate text.

2.) 1-2 page Paper: typed, double spaced, 12-point font. (OR…2-4 pages handwritten)

—This paper is **not** formal, and can include lists/bullet points, phrases, etc. You DO NOT have to write in paragraph form, but you MUST create separate sections for each part of the checklist (see below).

3.) 5-10 minute class presentation - these will take place on Friday, 12/20.

**Part 3:** CONTENT CHECKLIST

1. Early Species
2. Intermediate Species
3. Modern Species
4. Adaptations over time
5. Relatives – how they are similar and different to your species
6. Timeline of adaptations

**Part 4:**

Your grade will be based on 3 components:

Does the Project Meet the Content requirements?

Was the project complete?

Was the presentation creative and engaging?