ANIMAL PROJECT

(Learning Information Skills)



**Information Skills**

**What are information skills?**

Information skills are being able to find, form an opinion on and present information.

Through doing the Animal project you are actively learning and improving your information skills.

Being able to find, form an opinion on and present information is an essential part of your secondary education.

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When your teacher asks you to find information for a piece of school work it is difficult to know where to begin.

The Super3 is a step by step plan used by pupils all over the world to carry out research. If you need any help remember you can ask your **school librarian Mrs Scott**.

The **Super3** steps are:

**Plan - Before I start I will……**

**Do – In order to finish the task I will…….**

**Review – I will know I have finished my task when……**

These three steps will help you to organise your thoughts and help you to begin = ‘think about thinking’.

I recommend that you copy out the worksheets on pages 5-7 of this booklet next week before you start researching.

Plan

**Question: What am I being asked to do?**

Answer: Find facts on a wild animal of your choice using library books and the internet. You will find a list of the animals you can research on page 12. You will then use these facts to produce a booklet for your teacher. Your booklet can either be handwritten or typed. You are expected to find facts on the following topics for your animal: **appearance, habitat, eating habits, mating habits, lifestyle, distribution and scientific classification**. You will find a list of these topics and a short description of what they mean on page 10 of this booklet.

**Question: How long do I have to do it?**

Answer: Three/four periods in the library for research along with independent research at home. Your teacher will give you a date to hand in your booklet.

Do

**Question: Where do I find the animal books in the library?**

Answer: Non-fiction books are given a special number (this is called a Dewey Decimal Number) to help you find them. I have included a list of these numbers on page 8. Animal books can be found at Dewey Decimal number 500s+. Find the bookshelf along the right hand side of the library – it is the furthest away shelf. To help you find them the shelf has red stickers on it.

**Question: How do I use my book to find the right information?**

Answer: Use the content and index pages to find facts quickly and easily. Make sure you have taken down enough facts for each of your topics. Like a puzzle try to match you’re the areas you are researching e.g.: appearance, habitat etc. to the information in your book.

**Question: How do I skim and scan and take notes?**

Answer: Once you have found the right page in your book read the information quickly. This is called skimming and scanning. Think about whether or not the information links to your topic, does it answer your question/s? If you have answered yes then it is likely that these facts are important and useful and you should write them down. Remember facts are not just words. Facts can also be tables, diagrams, statistics and photographs. And lastly, remember that you do not have to write in full paragraphs. Taking down notes is all about gathering as much information in as short a time as possible. Perhaps, you could write your notes in bullet points etc. This is called summarising.

**Question: What websites should I use?**

Answer: Please start with the three websites I have recommended on page 11 of this booklet. Once you have used them you can move onto any websites that you have found.

Review

**Question: How do I know when I have enough notes?**

Answer: Think carefully. Have you written down information for each of the topics – at least a paragraph or more? Remember the more facts you have the better your project will be. Have you found any interesting facts on your animal e.g. anything unusual or different? Remember your project has to stand out to your teacher. The best projects often include “did you know facts” and interesting photographs / drawings. If you have answered yes to these questions then you should have enough notes and can start to type up or hand write your booklet.

**Super3 Worksheet 1**



**What am I supposed to do?**

**What will it look like if I do a really good job?**

**What do I need to find out to do to the job?**

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**Super3 Worksheet 2**



**Where can I find what I’m looking for?**

**Is this good information?**

**What will my finished piece of work look like?**

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**Super3 Worksheet 3**



**Did I do what I was supposed to do?**

**Do I feel ok about this?**

**Should I do something else before I hand it in to my teacher?**

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**Finding Your Book**

To help you find a non-fiction book in the school library get to know the ‘Dewey Decimal System’.

**Remember a non-fiction book only contains factual information.**

Dewey Decimal numbers are special numbers given to non-fiction books in all libraries across the world including your school library.

Books are grouped together by topic and animal books are found under **Science - 500**:

**000 – Computers, Information and General Works**

(Computers, the Internet, Encyclopaedias)

**100 – Philosophy and Psychology**

(Astrology, Dreams and Ghosts)

**200 – Religion**

(Religious Education, World Religion)

**300 – Social Sciences**

(Environment, Fairy Tales, Governments)

**400 – Language**

(Dictionaries, Foreign Languages, Sign Language)

**500 – Science**

(Astronomy, Nature, Maths)

**600 – Technology**

(Inventions, Human Body, Cooking)

**700 – Arts and Recreation**

(Arts and Crafts, Music, Sport)

**800 – Literature**

(Plays, Poetry, Humour)

**900 – History and Geography**

(Travel, Biography, Genealogy)

**Bibliography / Plagiarism**

Once you have finished taking notes and you are putting together your final piece of work remember to include a bibliography. This is normally the last page.

A bibliography is a list of the books and websites you have used to find facts. **This is essential**.

Get into the habit of noting down the title and author of the book and website you are using as you go.

You will find two tables on pages 13 and 14 to help you create a bibliography – one for books and one for websites. Or if you prefer you can make a bibliography of your own.

It is also important that you use your own words when writing up your final piece of work rather than copying the words you find in your book or online. **Do not copy and paste**.

If you copy this is called plagiarism and is a form of cheating. You risk failing if you plagiarise. Please be aware of this.



**Animal Topics**

**Appearance**

(What it looks like: colour, coat, weight, height, length)

**Habitat**

(Where it lives: describe the landscape, the country, if it lives in a nest, cave etc)

**Eating Habits**

(What it eats, how it hunts and its predators)

**Mating Habits**

(How it chooses a mate, pregnancy and raising its young)

**Lifestyle**

(How it lives: in groups, on its own, how it moves around, intelligence, communication, social skills, its lifecycle)

**Distribution**

(Where in the world it lives – you could mark this on the blank map on page 15 of this booklet or create your own and by using the library’s atlases or giant wall map)

**Scientific Classification**

(You will find the Latin name given to your animal by scientists by using the library’s encyclopaedias)

**Useful Websites**

**http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals**

**http://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/animals**

**http://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/animals-attractions/animals/**

The above websites can be used as you begin to research online. You can also carry out your own Google searches. But please remember to take down a note of the name of each website you use for your bibliography and also avoid using Wikipedia as the information is often too technical and unreliable.

**Animals**

**Below are a list of the animals you can choose from. Pick two different animals for your first and second choice. Some animals will be more popular than others but normally you will be given your first or second choice.**

Amphibians (Frogs and Toads) Hyena Shark

Baboon Jaguar Snake

Bat Koala Spider

Bear Lemur Tiger

Birds (Exotic e.g.: Toucan) Leopard Tortoise

Butterfly Lion Whale

Cheetah Lizard Wildebeest

Chimpanzee Meerkat Zebra

Coyote Monkey

Crocodile Moth

Dolphin Ostrich

Eagle Orangutan

Elephant Panda

Fish Penguin

Giraffe Polar Bear

Gorilla Puma

Grey Wolf Reindeer

Hippopotamus Reptile

**You will receive confirmation of your animal before your second period in the library.**

 **BOOKS -**

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| **Author Name (SURNAME, Initials)**  | **Book Title** **(Italicised or Underlined)**  |
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**WEBSITES -**

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| **Title of Website (*Italicised* or underlined)**  | **Website Address**  |
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