

# Environmental Science Semester 1 Final Project:

## Protected, Threatened, Endangered, or Managed Species PowerPoint Project

As resources and environmental pressures on Earth become increasing concerns for humans, we must keep in mind the resulting effects on wildlife as well. Some plant and animal species are being pushed near the point of extinction. Others are doing extremely well, even to the point of being overpopulated in certain areas. The ways in which we manage species encompasses a huge range of techniques. Your task for this project is to choose a plant or animal that is endangered, threatened, protected, or managed, and discuss issues that surround your species.

You and a partner will have the opportunity to present this information to the class through a commonly used and powerful media tool called Microsoft PowerPoint. This computer program is used as a presentation tool in schools, homes, businesses and on the Internet to help pass on information in a way that tends to hold people's attention better than verbal elaboration and lecture techniques.

The assignment, which will be divided into 4 components, will be worth a total of 120 points. This is easily the largest valued assignment of the entire semester. Here are the 4 major areas that will determine your grade:

- |                                   |   |                 |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1)                                | The PowerPoint Presentation (your creation using the program)...                              | 80 pts.         |
| 2)                                | A follow-along note sheet (for other students to fill in while you present your project)..... | 20 pts.         |
| 3)                                | Presentation to the class (how well you present your species).....                            | 10 pts.         |
| 4)                                | 5 questions submitted as a "mini quiz" about your species.....                                | <u>10 pts.</u>  |
| <b>TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS.....</b> |   | <b>120 pts.</b> |

***EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES:***

- PICK AN ANIMAL FROM WISCONSIN (TODAY OR IN THE PAST) 5 pts.
- PRESENT ON THE FIRST DAY AVAILABLE 5 pts.

Here is a list of **SOME** possible species for your project. Only 1 group may claim a given species. Choices can be made 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> serve. Sign up as soon as you've chosen a species or somebody else might claim it before you!

California Condor	Cougar*	Manatee	Bald Eagle*
Grizzly Bear	Timber Rattlesnake*	Leatherback Turtle	Gorilla
Black Rhinoceros	Paddlefish*	Tiger (certain species)	Grey Seal
Black Bear*	North American Elk*	Pronghorn Antelope	Wild Turkey*
Leopard (multiple species)	Monkey (multiple species)	Hawksbill Turtle	Wolverine
Whale (multiple species)	Harbor Porpoise	Timberwolf (grey wolf)*	Pine Marten*
Canada Lynx*	Snowy Egret	Peregrine Falcon*	Longear Sunfish*
Fish (multiple species)	Snakes (multiple species)	Whooping Crane*	Fisher*
Trumpeter Swan*	Barn Owl*	Frogs (multiple species)	Wood Turtle*
Elephant (multiple species)	Massasauga Rattlesnake*	Beaver*	Giant Panda
Blanchard's Cricket Frog*	Porcupine*	Bobcat*	Sturgeon*

\*Wisconsin species (past or present)

THIS IS JUST A LIST OF IDEAS ... MANY MORE SPECIES CAN BE RESEARCHED FOR YOUR PROJECT - JUST ASK!

# **PowerPoint Presentation Parameters - REQUIREMENTS**

## **GENERAL CHECKLIST**

- You must use **PowerPoint** to do your presentation.
- A minimum of **10 slides** must be used - more is okay!
- At least **5 pictures (clipart or photos)** are required and should be inserted throughout the presentation (don't put 5 pictures on one slide and have the rest of your project be all text!)
- At least **5** of the slides need to have some sort of **animation ("special effects")**

## **MAP / GROUP REQUIREMENTS:**

- A **map** with the range of population & distribution is required. If you can't find a map that has the range shown on it, then a map of the general area with a written explanation of the range submitted with it is OK.
- A **group or organization** that helps support the preservation or management of your species is required. General wildlife organizations are okay, but any that are specific to your species are preferred. A web-site, address, or phone number associated with the organization that you find should be included in your presentation.

## **PRINTOUTS / PAPERWORK COMPONENTS:**

- FOLLOW-ALONG NOTE SHEET:** Did the note sheet that you provided for Mr. Gain to copy and distribute to the class act as a useful tool with "teaching" the class? Did it flow well with your presentation? Did students have to stop you constantly to ask questions or was it self-guiding? Was it too specific, too general, or just right? Remember that students will be able to use this note sheet to prepare for your "mini quiz," so do a good job on it!
- 5 QUESTION MINI QUIZ:** Do the questions ask relevant information about your species? Are they too specific or too general? We don't want questions that are too obscure and difficult, but remember also that we're not making them for a 1<sup>st</sup> grade test either! Here is a sample format for your questions, which should be multiple choice, with 4 possible answers:
  - Which of the following is the only endangered species of snake in Wisconsin that is venomous?
    - a. Butler's garter snake
    - b. Massasauga Rattlesnake
    - c. King Cobra
    - d. Corn snake
- 1 copy of HANDOUTS - 6 SLIDES PER PAGE for Mr. Gain**  
**Here's how you get a copy of handouts:**

- 1) Make sure that you have your project opened in PowerPoint
- 2) Click on "file" and go down to "print"
- 3) In the lower left-hand corner, it says "print what" and "slides" is there
- 4) Change "slides" to "handouts"
- 5) To the right of that, by "slides per page," make sure the number "6" appears
- 6) Click "OK"

## **TEACHER-EVALUATED COMPONENTS:**

- ORGANIZATION:** Does the presentation flow in a logical order that is easy to follow, or does it skip around through bits of information in random order?
- CREATIVITY:** Was creativity shown in the project, or was it not as attention grabbing as it could've been?
- INFORMATION:** Was all relevant information provided, or would there be numerous unanswered questions following the presentation?

## **PowerPoint Presentation Parameters - IDEAS**

SINCE EVERYONE IS GOING TO BE DOING DIFFERENT SPECIES WITH A HUGE VARIATION IN RELEVANT INFORMATION, THE MAJORITY OF INFORMATION YOU ARE INCLUDING IN YOUR PRESENTATION WILL BE UP TO YOU TO DECIDE. I AM GIVING YOU FREEDOM TO CHOOSE, BUT REMEMBER TO KEEP IT PERTINENT TO THE PRIMARY IDEA BEHIND THIS PROJECT: WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Here is a list of some information that you may consider applicable depending on your species' scenario:

- Description of your species...
  - ◆ Body size and structure
  - ◆ Body systems
  - ◆ Hunting or feeding habits / strategies
  - ◆ Reproductive behavior
  - ◆ Raising young
  - ◆ Seasonal behavioral changes
  - ◆ Preferred habitat
  
- Estimates of current numbers and where they are found
- Reasons for the population decline
- Timeframe of decline; when it went on the list & what list it's found on (federal, state, other country...)
- Current laws & safeguards to maintain & improve population
- Future outlook / goals for species; what will change the status
- Groups you can use to get involved in preservation of the species
- How can you as a young adult help make an impact on the species?
- If there is a hunting season as part of the management of your species, how is it set up?
- Explain the overall importance of the proper management of wildlife as it applies to biodiversity, habitat preservation, and the future of life on the planet.

### **PRESENTATION CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Make sure that you and your partner practice your presentation. Both of you need to present equally. Just reading the text on your project does not count as top quality presenting! The presentation doesn't need to be long; just enough time to go through your project, elaborate a bit, and have the students fill in their notesheets!
- FYI: If we don't get to your group and run out of time, you will automatically receive all possible points for the presentation. Remember, those who volunteer to go on day #1 will get 5 extra credit points!