

ENRICHMENT IN BIOLOGY
MRS. SOWD 2001 - 2002

It is hoped that ALL students of Biology would be inspired to pursue that study of topics beyond what is required in class. To encourage some deeper exploration of biological topics, enrichment work is built into your grade. Enrichment is NOT extra credit. Each nine weeks you will be required to complete one enrichment credit. Some projects count as ½ credit, and some as more than one credit. If you choose a project worth more than one credit, the additional credit(s) will be given to the next nine week grading period. None are retroactive to a previous grading period.

Enrichment projects are to be worked on **outside of class** and are in addition to assigned class work -- including assigned classroom projects. Enrichment projects will be worth 30 points and should require 1 - 2 hours of work outside of the classroom. They are always due the **seventh** week of each nine weeks. None will be accepted beyond the seventh week. Although no classroom time will be allotted, each student should feel free to consult with the teacher at any time. Also class time can be used to look at class materials if the student's work is done.

ALL ENRICHMENT PROJECTS MUST BE RELATED TO BIOLOGY! **Check with me if you are in doubt.**

Some **suggestions** for developing enrichment projects include:

1. At the end of each chapter of the General Biology book, *Biology: Principles and Explorations*, are numerous suggestions for Activities and Projects. If you use one of these ideas, include the page number of the activity / project used. You may use any activity / project for a current or future chapter, but not one for a past chapter. (1 credit)
2. Read and report on biology-related articles from science journals (such as Science News, Your World and Scientific American). Read the article, explain what it was about, and give your opinion on what you read. **Only science journals may be used.** Do not use magazines that may contain science information, such as *Newsweek*, *Time*, etc. No newspaper articles may be used. (Need 2 journal summaries for 1 credit.)
I keep classroom copies of Science News and Your World. You may sign these out, but they must be returned within one week. Cross off your name when you return them.
3. Use lab manuals or textbooks to perform lab activities that are not done in class. Perform the experiment at home and write a lab report that includes title, hypothesis, materials, procedure, results, explanation of results, and conclusion. (1 – 3 credits, depending on complexity of experiment.)
4. Tutoring (this would be help requested by me for students in my classes). (1 credit)
5. Do a collection of shells, leaves, or insects (at least 20 specimens) in the fall only. NO minerals! (1 credit)
6. Create a computer slide show that illustrates and explains a biology-related topic. Must be your original work and a bibliography must be included for all material, including pictures. Make sure your presentation runs correctly. 10 slides are required, but limit it to one disc, please. (1 credit)
7. Paint a mural of animals, sea life, plants, molecular biology, etc. for classroom display. **You must be artistically inclined** and have taken high school art classes. All murals are to be displayed and are the property of Hoover High School. They must be done on framed artist canvas, otherwise, you must provide a frame for hanging purposes. Absolutely NO paint-by-number paintings will be accepted! No amateurs, please! (1 – 3 credits, as determined by quality of work and size of mural.)
8. Aid the teacher in construction of lab equipment, care of greenhouse, care of fish tank, etc., as requested by teacher. This generally is a time commitment, sometimes weekly, so be sure that you can commit before you volunteer. (1 credit)

9. Interview someone whose career relates to biology. Develop a set of questions in preparation, then write a report on what you have learned. No parents, please. (1 credit)
10. Volunteer at an animal shelter, hospital, nursing home, Habitat for Humanity (not during school hours and not at a parent's office!). You will need to make the arrangements for this volunteer work. A minimum of 4 hours of volunteer time is required, perhaps a Saturday morning. This looks great on a college resume, by the way, and hopefully will convince you to volunteer more time. Highly recommended! (1 credit)
11. Report on current biological topics of interest. For example, maybe you have read about genetic testing, the Human Genome Project, biotechnology topics, or an interesting medical disorder. Run these topics by me before you begin. (1 credit)
12. There are activity ideas in the back of Your World: Biotechnology and You. Again I have a classroom copy of this periodical.
13. Come up with your own ideas. You are not bound by my suggestions. Just be sure to run your idea by me first.

Important guidelines to remember:

- Each of the above ideas may only be used **once** in the year.
- All journal summaries must be no less than 1 pg. **typed**.
- All interviews / reports must be no less than 2 pgs. **typed**.
- **NO HANDWRITTEN PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED!**
- Bibliographies **must** be included with all reports, journal summaries, and computer presentations. Failure to do so results in a grade of zero. Sources can be from recent books, websites, and journals. **No encyclopedias may be used as sources.** Use the bibliography format taught to you in English class.
- Any signs of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero.
- Any “recycled projects” will result in a zero. I have a terrific memory.
- Absolutely no “animal reports” (you know bears, wolves, endangered species—this is grade school stuff).
- All projects become my property, including computer discs and CDs.

Words to the wise: Do something interesting – something that you are interested in. Don't make this hard work. And don't wait until the last minute, because if a test happens to fall on the same day that enrichment is due... Oh, well!

Also, remember that as long as you follow the guidelines for enrichment, you will receive a 30 / 30, a good strong A at the end of the nine weeks, and that's only going to help your grade.

If you lose this project description, you can download it on my homepage under **Files**.