

ONSC Project



The goal of this project is to observe and study an organism's life. This will include the organism's habitat, behaviors, tracks or evidence animals leave behind, food sources, environmental impacts animals may have, position in the food web, home range, non-native v. native v. naturalized, adaptations, medicinal/human uses, ... You will be required to write a research paper, as well as create a poster or PowerPoint and present your organism to the class.

The following is the order in which you will collect information:

- 1. Choose Organism**
- 2. Research and learn about organism (record specific information in Discovery Journals)**
- 3. Choose Video For Presentation**
- 4. At ONSC: Make observations, collect data, and utilize teacher naturalists for further research**
- 5. After ONSC: Create Project (See Rubric)**



The following slides are some examples of organisms that live in the Ozark Mountains, specifically on the property of ONSC. You may choose one of these for your final project, or you may choose a different organism to study and get approval from your teacher.



Maidenhair Fern



Christmas Fern



Broad Beech Fern



Purple Cliffbrake Fern



Star Moss



Reindeer Lichen



Foliose Lichen



Raccoon



Skunk



Armadillo



White-tailed deer



Possum



Pygmy Rattlesnake



Speckled Kingsnake



Copperhead



Timber Rattlesnake



Box Turtle



Northern Fence Lizard



Ringed Salamander



Texas Brown Tarantula

The following is an additional list of organisms that are found in Northwest Arkansas that may be used for your project.

Eastern Chipmunk

Coyote

Woodchuck

Black Bear

Wild Comfrey

Whip-poor-will

Wild Turkeys

Screech Owl

Bard Owl

Pilleated Woodpecker

Indigo Bunting

White-breasted Nuthatch

Bard Owl

Goldfinch

Spotted Salamander

Nine-Banded Armadillo

Short-Tailed Shrew

Prickly Pear Cactus

Southern Flying Squirrel

Spring Peeper

Northern Cricket Frog

Dwarf American Toad

Ant Lion

Mockernut Hickory

Sassafrass

Daddy-long-legs

Millipedes

Centipedes

Hover Fly

ONSC Organism Content Writing/Research

Requirement Checklist

- ___1. A complete description of organism, including genus and species, kingdom, and family of organism
- ___2. Description of organism's habitat and explanation of what makes the organism suitable for that habitat
- ___3. List and explain unique behaviors
- ___4. Describe at least 2 adaptations the organism has and why you think they have them
- ___5. State whether your organism is native to Northwest Arkansas, invasive non-native, or naturalist (a non-native organism that has adapted over time to survive and live productively in this area)
- ___6. List tracks or evidence your organism leaves
- ___7. Describe any environmental impacts, human or non-human, that affect your organism
- ___8. Describe any environmental problems that your organism creates
- ___9. Analyze and explain how your organism fits into a food web
- ___10. Describe organism's home-range
- ___11. Describe medicinal or human uses of organism

ONSC Organism Research Project Presentation Rubric

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Presentation	Well-rehearsed with smooth delivery that holds audience attention.	Rehearsed with fairly smooth delivery that holds audience attention most of the time.	Delivery not smooth, but able to maintain interest of the audience most of the time.	Delivery not smooth and audience attention often lost.
Video Usage	Relevant with information regarding your organism and can easily be understood by class	Information relevant but not easily understood	Information not relevant but easily understood	Information not relevant and not easily understood
Powerpoint or Poster	Contains picture of organism, video, colorful and well-thought out slides/poster, organized, easily understood, and all information relevant	Contains a picture of organism, video, slides/poster somewhat attractive and organized, easily mostly easy to understand, and information mostly relevant	Contains a picture of organism, video, slides/poster not very attractive and not very organized, not easily understood	Slides/poster not colorful, not organized, not easily understood
Content	Shows a deep understanding of organism and includes 9 of 11 required parts regarding organism (See Content Rubric)	Shows a deep understanding of organism and only includes 7-8 parts of required information	Shows some understanding and only includes 5-6 pieces of required information	Shows little understanding and only includes 3-4 or less pieces of required information