Project Overview:

This year, your science research project connects to the St. Louis Zoo Art Contest! You will pick an animal and explore what it does at night.

Your project has two parts:

1. **Research Paper** – Choose an animal and write a research paper. Your paper should explain the animal's behaviors, special adaptations, and how the environment affects it, including what it does at night. Use facts and information from your research and remember to list the sources where you found them.
2. **Art Project** – Create a work of art of your animal that shows the theme *"Animals at Night."* As you design your artwork, be sure to apply the elements of art; line, shape, color, texture, form, space, and value; to make your work visually engaging and scientifically accurate.

This is your chance to be both a scientist and an artist; learning about animals and sharing your ideas in creative ways.

Research Paper Expectations:

- Research and writing should be completed by the student, with support from teachers and families as needed for editing and guidance.
- Writing should be appropriate for the student's grade level.
- All sources must be cited, and a bibliography must be included.

Research Paper Guidelines:

- Length: Maximum of 5 pages
- Format:
    - Typed and printed on white paper
    - 12-point Times New Roman font
    - Double-spaced

Required Sections:

1. **Title Page**: Include the project title, student's name, teacher's name, and grade level.
2. **Introduction**: Briefly explain the topic and why it was chosen.
3. **Research Summary**: Present key facts, findings, and background information.
4. **Possible Solutions**: Describe ideas or strategies to address the issue the animal may face.
5. **Data**: Include any relevant data, charts, or visuals.
6. **Further Questions**: Identify areas for future research or unanswered questions.
7. **Conclusion and Reflection**: Summarize what was learned and why it matters.
8. **Bibliography**: List all sources used in the research.

Student Names:		Grade:	
Teacher's Name		Project Title:	

Research Paper				
Category	**Exceeds Expectations**	**Meets Expectations**	**Approaching**	**Beginning**
Title & Introduction (5)	**5** Creative, accurate title; engaging intro explains animal and student interest	**4** Clear title; intro explains animal and interest	**2-3** Title or intro incomplete, vague, or missing	**0-1** No clear title or intro
Background Information (10)	**10** Provides thorough background about animals' nighttime behavior with strong connections to science concepts.	**8-9** Provides accurate background information and explains behavior with some science detail.	**5-7** Limited background; missing important details.	**0-4** Little to no background provided.
Research & Details (15)	**15** Information is accurate, detailed, in student's own words; shows strong understanding of the animal.	**12-14** Information is mostly accurate and understandable; evidence of own words.	**7-11** Some inaccuracies; research lacks detail; some copying from sources.	**0-6** Very little information; mostly copied or incomplete.
Data & Evidence (10)	**10** Includes charts, tables, pictures, or other data that clearly support research; neat and labeled.	**8-9** Includes some data or visuals that connect to the research.	**5-7** Limited or unclear data; not well connected to research.	**0-4** No data or evidence provided.
Conclusion & Reflection (10)	**10** Clear and thoughtful reflection; explains what was learned, any surprises, and why the research is important.	**8-9** Reflection explains what was learned and provides some insight.	**5-7** Basic reflection; may lack depth or clarity.	**0-4** No reflection or unclear conclusion.
Grammar, Spelling & Formatting (10)	**10** Writing is clear, well-organized, with no grammar/spelling errors; follows all formatting directions.	**8-9** Few minor errors; paper is mostly neat and follows directions.	**5-7** Frequent grammar/spelling errors; formatting not fully followed.	**0-4** Many errors; hard to read; does not follow format.

Continue to next page for art rubric.

Students/Teachers are to complete the top portion of this form and make sure it is attached to the STEAM Fair project for judges to reference, all scores are entered through the shared digital scoring form.

Student Names:		Grade:	
Teacher's Name		Project Title:	

Research Art Project				
Category	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaching	Beginning
Creativity & Theme (10)	**10** Artwork is highly creative and original; clearly reflects "Animals at Night" and skillfully applies elements of art (line, shape, color, texture, form, space, value)	**8-9** Artwork shows creativity and connects to theme; some elements of art are applied	**5-7** Artwork shows limited creativity; weak connection to theme; minimal use of elements of art	**0-4** Artwork is incomplete or does not show theme or elements of art
Accuracy (10)	**10** Animal features are realistic and consistent with research.	**8-9** Most features are realistic and connected to research.	**5-7** Some features are inaccurate or unclear.	**0-4** Artwork does not reflect researched animal.
Effort & Craftsmanship (10)	**10** Artwork is neat, detailed, and shows excellent effort; artistic techniques are used carefully to enhance design	**8-9** Artwork is complete, mostly neat, and shows good effort	**5-7** Artwork looks rushed or incomplete; little attention to detail	**0-4** Minimal effort; unfinished or messy work
Presentation (10)	**10** Artwork is polished, display-ready, and clearly complements the research paper	**8-9** Artwork is complete and display ready.	**5-7** Artwork is somewhat complete but not well-prepared for display.	**0-4** Artwork is incomplete or not ready for display.

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