

Summer Assignment 2008 AP Biology

Your first assignment for AP biology is a research paper. The primary reason for the assignment is because of the extremely limited amount of time we have to cover the material. We are always hard-pressed to get through everything including the labs. We used to have 2 more weeks, but now we start after Labor Day, yet the exam is still the same time. This assignment is meant to give you a bit of a jump start, and ultimately help you- it is not meant to ruin your summer.

The first topic that we will study is Ecology. In order to get started, we are going to look at the Midwest from an ecological perspective. In your paper, you are going to research from a selection of natural ecosystems native to the Midwest and Great Plains. You may research from the following types of biomes:

- prairie (tallgrass or mixed grass)
- riparian (river)
- Great Lakes ecosystem
- Savannah (oak dominated forest – not African savanna!)
- Boreal Forest of the Canada- US border (coniferous forest)
- Temperate deciduous forest

In your paper, you may research any aspect(s) of the ecosystem, whether it be animals found there, vegetation, climate, geologic history, etc, or a combination. The requirement is that you focus on ***ADAPTATION in the MIDWEST***: why is an animal there, how does it survive, why is the climate the way it is, what effect does it have, etc. If you're unsure about the meaning of adaptation, make sure you ask me about it or find out on your own.

An example: prairie grasses are well adapted to the plains, due to: roots which grow very deep to maximize limited water, ability to survive frequent fires, woody texture to survive strong winds, smaller leaves to minimize water loss, etc. Another example: polar bears fur are clear (white) to blend into the icy environment, they have thick layer of fat for insulation, excellent sense of touch to feel seals below the ice, an ability to swim, etc. These are examples of adaptation.

Length: 4-5 pages, double spaced, size 11 Times New Roman font

You absolutely must use citations, and include a reference list, not a bibliography. Use a minimum of 5 sources, all of which must be scholarly, only 2 of which may be a web site. You may use books, science magazines, journals, or scholarly websites, which would end in .edu most likely. If you're not sure of the quality of a source, ask me.

Feel free to contact me over the summer if you need to. The paper is due when you enter class the first week of school, on **Friday, September 5**, but you may send it to me early for extra credit (by August 25.)

If you're unsure of anything- where to get started, how to find sources, etc, you may get in touch with me, but please don't wait until the end of August. If you write to me or send me a paper, make sure you identify yourself with 'AP Bio Question,' otherwise I may delete your email if I don't recognize it. My address is **rcorrigan@cps.edu**. Have a good summer and see you in September!