

Names: _____

Due Date: _____

Rubric - Science Unit 1 Culminating Activity: Life Systems Project

Big Idea: Human activities and interactions can have major impacts on an entire ecosystem, even if they only affect one part. How are all the parts of an ecosystem connected, and how can a change in one element affect the entire environment?

Expectation	Level One	Level Two	Level Three	Level Four
Understands the elements and interactions in an ecosystem	Abiotic, biotic, producer, consumer, decomposer and food chain interactions are explained with limited effectiveness.	Abiotic, biotic, producer, consumer, decomposer and food chain interactions are explained with a some effectiveness.	Abiotic, biotic, producer, consumer, decomposer and food chain interactions are explained with considerable effectiveness.	Abiotic, biotic, producer, consumer, decomposer and food chain interactions are explained with a high degree of effectiveness.
Use of planning skills (e.g., focusing research, gathering information, setting goals)	No evidence of planning skills. Research is unfocused, limited information, deadlines not met.	Some evidence of planning skills. Research is somewhat focused, adequate information, some deadlines met.	Good evidence of planning skills. Research is focused, good information, most deadlines met.	Excellent evidence of planning skills. Research is very focused, detailed information, all deadlines met.
Use of critical/creative thinking processes	Demonstrated critical thinking and synthesizing of ideas with limited effectiveness.	Demonstrated critical thinking and synthesizing of ideas with some effectiveness.	Demonstrated critical thinking and synthesizing of ideas with considerable effectiveness.	Demonstrated critical thinking and synthesizing of ideas with a high degree of effectiveness.
Expression and organization of ideas and information	Unclear expression, no logical organization of ideas.	Somewhat clear expression, some logical organization of ideas.	Clear expression, logical organization of ideas.	Very clear expression, explicitly logical organization of ideas.
Making connections within and between various contexts	Limited connections (2-) between human interaction and the effect on the ecosystem (shows before and after relationships for few elements).	Some connections (3+) between human interaction and the effect on the ecosystem (shows before and after relationships for some elements).	Many connections (4+) between human interaction and the effect on the ecosystem (shows before and after relationships for most elements).	Several connections (5+) between human interaction and the effect on the ecosystem (shows before and after relationships for all elements).