Ecosystem Rubric

Name_____   Block # _____

Standards:

NGSS LS2.A: Organisms, and populations of organisms, are dependent on their environmental interactions both with living and non-living factors.

TEKS: (E) Organisms and environments.

(i) Students will understand the relationship between living organisms and their environment. Different environments support different living organisms that are adapted to that region of Earth. Organisms are living systems that maintain a steady state with that environment and whose balance may be disrupted by internal and external stimuli. External stimuli include human activity or the environment. Successful organisms can reestablish a balance through different processes such as a feedback mechanism. Ecological succession can be seen on a broad or small scale.

Objective: Students will choose an ecosystem local to where they live. They will then need to research, analyze, and create a Voice Thread report on 4 biotic (living) and 4 abiotic (non-living) factors within that ecosystem.

Tentative Dates (Can be moved to fit class schedule)

Ecosystem dates

October 10: 3 Sources posted to Globalcolab.com Google Group board

October 17: Lit Review due on GlobalCOlab.com Google Group board

October 24: Findings report on chosen ecosystem posted to GlobalCOlab.com

October 31: Presentation due on local ecosystem. This will be created through Voice Thread and shared with the Ecosystem group within the Voice Thread app.

Ecosystem Rubric

CATEGORY	5	4	3	2
Bibliography	3 reputable background sources were used and cited correctly. Material is translated into student\'s own words. Only 2 can be from websites. Other sources can be information from a trip, photos and journal from investigation, and/or magazines, journals and books.	Found 3 reputable background sources are used and cited correctly. Material is translated into student\'s own words, but all sources are from the internet.	Only 2 background sources are used and cited correctly, but some are not reputable sources. Material is translated into student\'s own words.	Only 1 source used, and/or material is directly copied rather than put into students own words and/or background sources are cited incorrectly.
Data	Professional looking and accurate representation of the 4 biotic and 4 abiotic factors within that ecosystem. Displayed in diagrams, graphs, tables or illustrations. Visual components are labeled and titled.	Accurate representation of the 4 biotic and 4 abiotic factors within that ecosystem. Displayed in diagrams, graphs, tables or illustrations. Visual components are labeled and titled.	Accurate representation of the 3 biotic and 3 abiotic factors within that ecosystem. Displayed in diagrams, graphs, tables or illustrations. Visual components are labeled and titled.	Data are not shown OR are inaccurate.
Analysis	The relationship between the biotic and abiotic factors within the ecosystem are discussed, and trends/patterns logically analyzed. Analyzes what changes and affects people have had on the ecosystem chosen.	The relationship between the biotic and abiotic factors within the ecosystem are discussed, and trends/patterns logically analyzed. Analyzes what changes and affects people have had on the ecosystem chosen. A few errors made.	The relationship between the biotic and abiotic factors within the ecosystem are discussed, and trends/patterns logically analyzed. No Analysis of what changes and affects people have had on the ecosystem chosen.	The relationship between the variables is not discussed.

Scientific Concepts	Report illustrates an accurate and thorough understanding of scientific concepts underlying the chosen ecosystem.	Report illustrates an accurate understanding of most scientific concepts underlying the chosen ecosystem.	Report illustrates a limited understanding of scientific concepts underlying the chosen ecosystem.	Report illustrates inaccurate understanding of scientific concepts underlying the chosen ecosystem.
Appearance/ Organization	Voice Thread report consistently uses headings and subheadings along with visuals to describe and visually organize the material.	Voice Thread report uses headings and subheadings along with visuals to describe and visually organize the material.	Voice Thread report uses headings and subheadings along with visuals to describe and visually organize the material, but is confusing or messy at times.	Voice Thread report is messy and does not provide visuals or a description of the chosen ecosystem.