

Create a Wildlife Blog

➤ Use research to learn about interesting animal behaviors or features. Share your findings on a wildlife blog.

Week 1: Brainstorm and Research

- 1. Meet with your group and brainstorm ideas** for animals you might want to research and questions you should try to find answers to, such as “How does this behavior help the animal?” or “Why does the animal have this unusual feature?”
- 2. Begin your research.** Remember that credible sources include news and educational sites, government sites, and conservation organization sites.
- 3. Record where your information comes from.** Credit Internet sources by including the site’s full address, the date you accessed the site, and any direct quotes you wish to use from the site. You can use note-taking software or simple index cards to record your research.
- 4. Share and keep track of information** and ideas in a group document everyone has access to, such as a visual “Idea Board.”
- 5. Pause to discuss** that everyone is in agreement about the direction of the project.
- 6. Organize the research.** You can place it into categories, such as facts about the animal’s habitat or foods the animal eats. Or you can create text boxes or digital cards on the computer and paste research where it seems most helpful.
- 7. Think about how your research fits into your project plan.** Visit blogs that have been approved by your teacher to determine the types of research you should include and to help you decide which characteristics of blogs to include in yours.



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Week 2: Write and Create

- 1. Meet with your group to review ideas** for the template you will use to begin and end each blog entry. Write an introduction sentence and a conclusion sentence with blanks that each student will fill in for their animal. Use the group document or visual “Idea Board” as you discuss.
- 2. Develop a plan** so you know which group member is responsible for each part of the project.
- 3. Organize your research.** Put your note cards in an order that makes sense. Group facts that are alike together so you can write about them all at once.
- 4. Plan your writing.** Think about the template you created as a group. How will you fill in the blanks to start and end your blog entry?
- 5. Draft your blog entry.** Try to make your writing about the same number of sentences as everyone else’s.
- 6. Pause to be sure** that everyone is in agreement about the direction of the project. Discuss what you can do to improve the writing.
- 7. Revise your writing.** After reading your blog entry to the group, listen to their suggestions and make changes to your writing.
- 8. Plan visuals, audio, multimodal, or other additions** to make your project come to life. Revisit the approved blogs you liked in Week 1 to determine the types of visuals and other additions you may want to include in your blog entry. Create a poster that shows what your animal looks like. List the most important facts, too.



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Week 3: Practice and Present

- 1. Meet with your group** and plan your presentation.
- 2. Put your writing into a final form.** Make sure everyone's blog entries have been entered into the computer.
- 3. Organize your materials.** Prepare note cards to help you remember key points you want to mention when you speak.
- 4. Rehearse your roles.** Remember to plan who will be operating the computer during each student's turn presenting.
- 5. Practice speaking** clearly and loudly enough. Don't forget to look at the audience as you speak. Practice navigating to the correct blog entry at the right time.
- 6. Give feedback** to the presenters as they practice. What are they doing well? What can they improve? Remember to offer advice that is helpful and positive.
- 7. Present your wildlife blog.** Group members who are not speaking should monitor the computer display to make sure the right information is on the screen at the right time.
- 8. Celebrate and reflect.** Meet with your group to discuss what went well during your presentation. Tell each group member what you most liked about his or her speech.

