

Informative Page Directions

RI.4.9, W.4.2, W.4.4, W.4.7, W.4.8, L.4.3c

Name: _____ Date: _____

Task:

You have been researching a specific animal and its defense mechanisms in order to create a choose-your-own-adventure narrative about your expert animal. Write an informative piece that describes your animal's physical characteristics, habitat, predators, and defense mechanisms. Other students, teachers, and parents will read your writing to learn more about your expert animal and how it defends itself.

Directions:

Write an informative piece that describes your animal's physical characteristics, habitat, predators, and at least two defense mechanisms. Choose the most important information from your sources to include in your piece. Then write an informative piece that is at least three paragraphs long. In your piece, clearly state your focus in your introduction paragraph. Use accurate and relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples to explain and support the information presented in your detail paragraphs. Clearly organize your writing by using linking words to connect your ideas and be sure to use modal auxiliaries such as *can*, *would*, *could*, *should*, *will*, *may*, *might*, and *shall* correctly to express the condition of a verb.

Use the Informative Writing Checklist as you work to be sure your writing meets all the criteria.

Use the Informational Writing Planning graphic organizer to plan your informative piece before writing your draft.

Model Informational Essay

RI.4.9, W.4.2, W.4.4

Name: _____ Date: _____

The millipede is a relative of the centipede. They have twenty to one hundred body segments. There are two pairs of legs on each segment. Millipedes like to be in damp areas. In the wild, they live on moist forest floors. Some millipedes live in our houses! They like to live in damp bathrooms and basements. Millipedes aren't fast. They roll into balls and eat leaves or decaying vegetation. Their main predators, animals that hunt and eat the millipede, are ants, toads, and mice. Millipedes have two main defense mechanisms to protect themselves from predators. When they're near a predator, millipedes might roll into a ball or ooze poison.

Because they have so many body segments, it's easy for them to bend and roll into a tight ball. They have hard exoskeletons, which means that their skeletons are on the outside of their bodies. That protects the millipede's body. The ball hides the millipede from predators because it doesn't look like a millipede anymore! A toad looking for lunch might easily mistake a tiny, rolled-up millipede for a pebble and pass it by. This is a very useful defense mechanism.

Some millipedes emit poison to protect themselves. This can be sticky. When the poison gets on the predator, it slows the predator down. This gives the slow millipede time to escape. Another poison is gas. The gas can be very strong, so strong that it can paralyze or kill the predator. Some millipedes have poison that smells. When predators smell it they run away. Sometimes, other animals rub millipedes all over their bodies to use the poison to repel insects. The millipedes don't often use their poison, though. They would rather not be attacked in the first place!

Millipedes are very special critters. They have unusual and interesting defense mechanisms that keep them safe from predators.

Informative Writing Checklist

Name: _____ Date: _____

Standard	Characteristics of Effective Informative Writing	Characteristics of an informative text about Animal Defense Mechanisms	Yes? No?
W.4.9	My focus shows that I clearly understand the topic or text and is well supported with evidence from reliable sources.		
W.4.2a	I state my topic clearly and my writing stays focused throughout the piece.		
W.4.2a	I have an introduction that gives the reader important information they need to understand the piece.		
W.4.2a	I group related information in paragraphs and sections. Each paragraph or section explains a main idea.		

Standard	Characteristics of Effective Informative Writing	Characteristics of an informative text about Animal Defense Mechanisms	Yes? No?
W.4.2a	I use formatting, illustrations, and multimedia to help the reader understand information and ideas.		
W.4.2b	I use accurate and relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information to explain my thinking.		
W.4.2c	I use linking words to connect ideas.		
W.4.2e	I have a conclusion that is clearly related to the focus and the information presented.		
W.4.2d L.4.6	The words I use show that I am knowledgeable about this topic.		

Standard	Characteristics of Effective Informative Writing	Characteristics of an informative text about Animal Defense Mechanisms	Yes? No?
W.4.4	Information and ideas are clearly presented and easy to understand		
W.4.4 L.4.3 L.4.6	My writing is appropriate for this task purpose, and audience.		
W.4.8 (partial)	I provide a list of sources.		
L.4.1	My words and sentences follow the rules of writing.		
L.4.2 L.4.3b	My spelling, capitalization and punctuation is correct.		

Informational Writing Planning Graphic Organizer

RI.4.9, W.4.2, W.4.4, W.4.5, W.4.7, W.4.8, L.4.3c

Name: _____ Date: _____

Focus Question: How does my expert group animal use its body and behaviors to help it survive?

Focus Statement:

<p>Introduction Paragraph Describe your animal.</p> <p>Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is my animal?• What does my animal look like? • Where does it live?	<p>Proof Paragraph 1 What is one defense mechanism my animal uses?</p> <p>How/when would my animal use this defense mechanism?</p> <p>Details:</p>
---	---

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are its predators?	How would a predator respond to this defense mechanism?
---	---

<p>Proof Paragraph 2</p> <p>What is another defense mechanism my animal uses?</p> <p>How/when would my animal use this defense mechanism?</p>	<p>Concluding Statement</p> <p>Restate your focus statement from the introduction.</p>
---	---

<p>Details:</p> <p>How would a predator respond to this defense mechanism?</p>	
---	--

<p>My Sources: List any sources you used in planning your informative piece.</p>	<p>Vocabulary from my research to be used:</p>
---	---