



Homework Menu #1



name: _____

date: _____

Directions: For homework this month you will be working on and completing projects of your choice. Below is a list of projects that you may choose from. If you have an idea of your own which is not listed, check with Russ for permission to try it. As you complete each project you will have a chance to share it with your classmates. Some projects may take more time than others to finish. To keep track of the time you spend on your homework projects, you and your parents will complete a homework time sheet that is to be turned in each Friday. When you finish one project, begin working on your next project as soon as you can. All projects will be due no later than the nearest Friday to the end of the month. At that time a new menu will be given out.

Focus of the Month: Natural Science

Skills included: Science skills of observation, classification, measurement, analysis, interpreting/infering, communication

Project Menu:

- Keep track of the air temperature each day at the same time. Create a graph showing how it changed throughout the month. By looking at all the information you gathered, what can you say about the trend in temperatures? Bonus idea: Find the average temperature for September and compare it to average September temperatures over time in our area, or to average September temperatures in other parts of the United States.
- Find a pond or stream that you can visit frequently (Kah Tai Lagoon may work). Measure its water temperature on a regular basis, perhaps every other day. Create a graph showing how it changed (or didn't change) throughout the month. Report on what you found out. What about water temperature that you learned might be important for people to know to help them understand the plants and animals living in the stream or pond?
- Watch the birds that visit a certain area (such as your back yard) during different times of the day for a week. Use a book to identify the different birds that you see. Make and label a poster showing the different birds that visited your area. Which bird did you see the most of? Which bird visited the least? Why do you think the bird you saw the most was there so much? What about the one you saw the least? Bonus idea: Build a birdhouse for one type of bird you observed in your area. After sharing it with the class, put it up in your area (get permission first).



- Make a book about plant leaves. Collect plant leaves and put them in a press (an old catalog or phone book with books stacked on it for a few days works great). Mount your dried and flattened leaves on paper and label each of them with the plant's name, the date and place you collected them. Bonus idea: Include pictures that you drew or photographs that you took of the plants.
- Use books, the Internet, people you interview, television shows, or whatever else you can think of to gather information about an animal whose habitat is in North America. Teach a lesson about your animal to the rest of the class. Include at least one visual aid and a handout or worksheet/puzzle to help other students learn about your animal. Bonus idea: Make a video or PowerPoint style presentation to help you teach your lesson.
- Learn something about nature that you can observe in our area. Create a skit, puppet show, or other dramatic event to perform for our class.
- Create a large poster of a plant that you have seen. Label the poster with the names of each of the plant's parts. Include a real sample of the plant or parts of the plant with your poster. Be prepared to answer questions from your classmates about what some of the plant's parts do.
- Other:



Expectations: It is expected that chosen projects will be finished completely, neatly, and in a timely manner. It is also expected that students will gain a depth of understanding about their project's topic upon completion. Further, while students are encouraged to work on one project at a time, it is entirely possible for students to complete any number of projects in the timeframe given. Students should also remember to keep homework interesting by challenging themselves to learn as much as possible and to do the best work they can.

Important: These projects will likely require mutual involvement of students and their parents. They also cannot be completed in one short evening prior to the due date. Each student will have to use their time wisely, doing a little bit at a time until a project is complete. Use the Project Planning Form to help you successfully complete your project on time.