# Save Our Habitats

**The Goal:** Your goal is to learn about different marine and coastal ecosystems and how they might be at risk due to human activity. You and a partner will be able to choose which ecosystem you want to research.

**The Information:** Your group should find out as much as possible about the following and incorporate it into an informational brochure/pamphlet to help protect your habitat:

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| **Topics to Cover** | **Questions to answer** |
| Location/Zone | 1. Provide a description of your habitat’s general features. 2. Find a photo of this habitat on the Texas Coast 3. Which zone can you categorize this habitat in (intertidal, sublittoral, bathyl, abyssal)? |
| **Abiotic (nonliving) Factors** | 1. Describe theamount of sunlight, salinity, oxygen, nutrients, and temperature in your habitat 2. How do these factors affect the organisms in your habitat? |
| **Biotic Components (plants and animals)** | 1. What are some indicator species of plants found in your habitat (look for at least 5)? 2. What are some indicator species of animals found in your habitat (look for at least 5)? 3. How are they adapted to live in this environment? |
| **Benthic, Plankton, Nekton** | 1. Which group do most of the organisms in your habitat belong to? Why? |
| **Interaction of Abiotic and Biotic Components** | 1. How do the abiotic factors affect the organisms in your habitat? 2. How is the biotic community adapted to the environment? 3. What is the flow of energy in your ecosystem? 4. How has human activity affected that ecosystem (with at least an example)? Have there been any protection laws passed? |

**The “Save Our Habitat” Public Service Announcement:** Use the table above to help you inform others about how humans are impacting/hurting your environment and what they can do to help!

**The Timeline:** You will have a number of class periods to work on this. (It is not absolutely necessary for you to work at home.) The **absolute deadline** for the project is **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| **Category** | **20** | **16** | **10** | **0** |
| **Attractiveness and Creativity** | Brochure is very attractive and creativity is evident. | Brochure is somewhat attractive and little creativity is evident. | Brochure is somewhat attractive and no creativity is evident. | Brochure is messy and unattrac-tive. |
| **Accuracy of animals** | 5 or more animals are accurately shown. | 2-4 animals are accurately shown. | 1 animal is accurately shown. | 0 animals are accurately shown. |
| **Accuracy of plants** | 5 or more plants are accurately shown. | 2-4 plants are accurately shown. | 1 plant is accurately shown. | 0 plants are accurately shown. |
| **Diorama**  **Background** | Background is very neatly depicted and present on all 3 sides. | Background is somewhat neatly depicted and present on all 3 sides. | Background is somewhat neatly depicted and is present on 2 sides. | Background is not neatly depicted and present on 0-1 sides. |
| **Abiotic Features** | Diorama realistically and very accurately depicts more than 2 geographical features. | Diorama realistically and accurately depicts 1-2 geographical features. | Diorama somewhat realistically and accurately depicts 1-2 geographical features. | Diorama does not realistically and/or accurately depict geographical features of the biome. |
| **Public Service Announcement** | Accurate description of the biome is present with all information clearly and creatively presented. Actions to save the habitat are specifically outlined. | Accurate description of the biome is present with most information clearly presented. Some actions to save the habitat are specifically outlined. | Description of the biome is present, but lacks accuracy and organization. Some effort to be creative and outline actions to save the habitat are present. | Description of the biome is not present or greatly lacks accuracy and organization. Presentation is inappropriate, and little to no effort is evident. |

**The grading rubric:**

# You will also receive several daily grades for making progress on your project or lack thereof!