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Biology E

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Wildflower Project Lab Report

- Introduction:

The Wildflower Project is a tradition in Biology and ESL Science class in Sandy Spring Friends School. During this two-month project, students can have a better understanding on wildflowers in Northeastern America. The project's objective is to gain students' awareness of wildflowers in our community and environment. Students' persistency and time management are also challenged in two months.

- Materials:

- Newcomb's Wildflower Guide
- History textbook (only for pressing)
- Paper Towel
- Access to Google Sheet for database
- Papers for labels and mounting
- Scissors, glue, pens, sheet protectors, and a binder for collection

- Procedure:

There are five steps in making a complete wildflower specimen.

- Identifying flowers

When a flower appears in my view, I always take my Newcomb's Wildflower Guide out before I pick the flower, because according to Newcomb's Wildflower Guide, some wildflowers can be poisonous or rare ones. It is crucial to use the three classification key codes and the locator keys to find flowers in the guide book. The first number stands for how many flower petals a flower has. The second number represents the plant type, whether the leaves are opposite, alternate, or basal leaves. The third key is leaf type. After figuring out the three classification key codes, I go to the locator keys to look for the real page number in the book.

- Collecting

Collecting are divided into two kinds. For a rare flower, I take clear pictures, which include clear flower type, plant type, and leaf type of a certain wildflower, with my ID on the background. For a common flower, I pick it, and keep my flower in a paper towel carefully.

- Pressing

After keeping my wildflowers in paper towels, pressing needs to be done to make the flowers dry and flat, in order to put them in the collection later. Press the flowers in a heavy book (I personally recommend history textbook), with flower petal, leaflets open. Remember to set the flowers in a dry place, in case there will be a mouldy flower upset.

- Mounting

After weeks of pressing, the flower should be neat, flat, and dry. Spray the glue on the back of a flower, and stick it on a sheet of paper. It takes up a lot of time if you are trying to get an “H” with 50 flowers, so time management is critical.

- Labeling

Watch the instruction video in labeling on moodle page patiently, and this step will be easier. Print out the labels, and arrange the flowers in family in alphabetical order. I choose the bottom right corner to make it easier to be seen when turning to a page in my binder.

- Data:

Flowers from the same family are placed together and are labeled with family names.

Families are arranged alphabetically. Each pressed flower are accompanied by an information label. The labels are on the bottom right corner of the specimens.

Check my database to see more information about my wildflowers.

- Discussion:

- From this project, I learned lots of academic and life skills. Problem solving is important when it comes to a project. Long term planning stands out in these 2 months. Responsibilities, such as paying attention to details, and raising awareness of local floral biodiversity fulfill my mind. Persistence can help me do everything better in the future.

- I didn't choose the right place for my pressed flowers, so some of them get mouldy. However, fortunately, those flowers are very common. I get a second chance to collect them.

- I enjoy the moment when I can recognize and identify wildflowers in my community after the project. The project enriches my knowledge base.
- Conclusion:
I am proud of being a student in biology class in Sandy Spring Friends School to participate in such an interesting project. In the future, I will try my best to help my younger friends on this project by giving them some hints and suggestions on this project.
- Notes to teacher:

Teek,

It has been a good academic year to have you as my biology teacher. You gave me lots of advices and feedbacks on wildflower project. It was really nice of you to send reminders at midnight, on weekends. I deeply understand that your time is really limited and precious during some academic help for track and field or family events. As the head coach of track and field, you appreciate my dedication and leadership on this sport. Our relationship gets closer and the BONDS(get it?) between us are much stronger. I really enjoy spending time with you in my first year studying abroad. Thank you so much!

Gratefully,

Kevin Ye