



Finding the Niche (Learning Experience #2)

Opportunities for Student Assessments



Opportunities for ongoing formative assessment are embedded throughout the learning experience in questions that spark class discussions. Student data sheets, journal entries and class presentations also serve as formative assessments as the students work through the learning experience. The summative assessment for this learning experience is *Save the Hellbender* (Student Sheet #2) and the team presentations of habitat conservation plans to the class. All students should be able to answer the *Finding the Niche* essential question at the conclusion of the learning experience. We recommend that teachers provide students with the grading rubrics when introducing the learning experience—this will help students to more effectively meet teacher expectations for quality work.

Student Science Journals

Journaling is an important part of a practicing scientist's day to day work. Student-scientists should reflect, write and draw in a journal or notebook as they answer questions and plan next steps in the problem solving process. Entries should be dated and labeled with names of team contributors and a note about where the team is in the planning process. Occasional journal review by the teacher provides an informal assessment of students' progress and their understanding of the content.

Suggested Student Journal Rubric – *Finding the Niche* (Learning Experience #2)

Notation	N/A	Missing	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Question: Hellbender future prediction					
Essential question: How does climate change affect a bioindicator species?					
Lesson Essential question: How does loss of a species from an ecosystem affect the other species in that ecosystem?					
Question regarding loss of hellbender					
Response to questions about climate change and its effects on ecosystems					
Other journal notes					

Suggested Rubric for Final Group Presentation – *Finding the Niche* (Learning Experience #2)



Criteria	N/A	Missing	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Evidence of research; sources listed.					
Detailed information about the chosen species: habitat, niche					
Detailed information about effects of climate change on the chosen species					
Clear proposal for conservation					
Inclusion of all team members in research and knowledge					
Creativity shown in presentation					