Name: _____ Date: _____

Treasure Hunt Story Worksheet

1. Pick an animal subject for your treasure hunt story.
   Any animal (insect, spider, bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian) is
   acceptable as long as it's real (no dragons or leprechauns), could
   conceivably move around in a green area (no fish), and is not human. Even an extinct animal
   could be used.

   _____

2. Imagine your subject for a while in a natural setting and take notes on what your subject might
   do and where it might go.

3. Draw a rough draft of a map showing the setting where you will be playing the treasure hunt
   game (you can use the back of this page). Be sure your map includes more than 10 real places
   where your subject might go in your treasure hunt story (where you could hide clues).

4. Now think of six research questions about your subject to help you write a story that is more
   scientifically based. (Example: What do leopard geckos eat? How do black-throated sparrows
   make their nests? How do pharaoh ants work together?)
   Research questions
   a.

   b.

   c.

   d.

   e.

   f.

5. Answer the above questions based on research. Hint: if your animal is very specific, such as *Turkey Vulture*, try finding some information about the general animal type (for example: *vulture*).

  • San Diego Zoo: Animal Bytes (http://www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/)

  • National Geographic: Animals (http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/)

  • National Geographic Kids (http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/)

  • Natural History Notebooks (http://nature.ca/notebooks/english/mon2.htm)

  • Tracking and stalking North American wildlife (http://www.geocities.com./Yosemite/9152/wildlife.html)

  • eNature: FieldGuides (http://www.enature.com/fieldguides/intermediate.asp?curGroupID=1)

  Answer   Source

  a.

  b.

  c.

  d.

  e.

  f.

6. Make note of other information found in your research that might be useful for the treasure hunt (use another sheet of paper if necessary).

7. Refine your map using the new information you found in your research. Include 9 places where the animal will go in your story. Next to each place, write what the animal might do there (for example: find food, sleep, mate, rest, etc.).

8. On a separate piece of paper, write your treasure hunt story, using the map, your notes, and your research to guide you. Format your story in 10 paragraphs, with each paragraph containing a clue as to where the next clue is hidden, except the last one.

   Write in first person from your animal subject's point of view (use "I" as if your subject were telling the story). Add interesting details and try to make the story fun to read. Think about each clue and make sure it isn't too hard or too easy. You want the player to have to think, but not to get frustrated. Don't actually reveal the identity of the animal until the 10th paragraph. This is the "treasure": The player finds out the animal's identity.

9. Have another student edit your story using the Peer-Editing Form and give you ideas to make it better. Make improvements and corrections in response to your peer editor's suggestions. Then read your story again and make any additional changes that you think will make the story more fun and informative.

10. When you are sure your story is just the way you want it, write your final draft (using a computer or writing neatly). You will need two copies, one to turn in for a grade and another to cut up for the game.

11. Number each clue and fill in the chart below to help you hide the clues correctly.

A. Clue Number	B. Where the clue is hidden (same as C for previous clue)	C. Location it leads to
1.	Give to players to begin game	
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.	(Treasure)	Not applicable

Cut up your story so each of the 10 clues is on a separate piece of paper. On the back of each, write where you will hide it, based on the previous clue (refer to the chart above). Think this through carefully before you hide the clues. Write your name on the back of each clue. On the back of the first clue, write your peer editor's name as well.

12. Hide each clue carefully in the appropriate place. Attach it securely to something, using tape as needed. Now you're ready to start!