



Name: _____

Fundamentals of Life Science 2: **Week 4 HOMEWORK CHECKLIST**

ALL GRADES

Due on September 20th

Parents, please continue to be in the habit of checking the website!

_____ **(5 points) Read Lesson 3: A Toasty Field Trip—Discovering Deserts**

The reading lesson was handed out in class and should be in the front of your binder. Read the lessons or have a parent read them to you if needed. It is not required for 3rd & 4th grades, but it is encouraged to begin practicing note taking skills by neatly highlighting or underlining the main points in the lesson as you are reading. This is a study skill that will help you connect with what you are reading, become independent learners, and help you to retain the information.

_____ **(10 points) Reinforcement & Review: Desert Flora**

Watch the following videos on desert plants. The videos will be listed on the class webpage for easy access. There will be additional videos on the webpage if you would like to dig a little deeper!

Fun Facts About Cacti: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zga1Evi2qts>

The Fascinating Life Cycle of Desert Plants (David Attenborough Nature Bites): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSSUA2r-cXk>

_____ **(10 points) Lab Activity—Desert Flora Adaptations (Lab Grade)**

A lab kit was handed out in class and the lab sheet with instructions is on page 36 of your field journal. You will need 48 hours to complete this lab so DO NOT start the lab on Monday! Preparing the lab is a quick process so try to get it started Wednesday or Thursday. Carefully follow the procedure on the lab sheet and fill in the observation, analysis, and conclusion sections to receive credit.

_____ **(10 points) Field Journal Activity—Saguaro Cactus (Completion Grade)**

You were given a printout in class of the life cycle of the saguaro cactus. Color and cut it out along the thick, black line. Starting at the end with the seed panel, fold, accordion-style, along the lines so that you end up with the two halves of the cactus meeting to complete the picture. On the top of page 35 of your field journal, write the title “Saguaro Cactus—A Keystone Species.” Glue the accordion-fold cactus to the middle of page 35 by gluing down the “ripe fruit” panel and the second-half of the cactus. Watch the following video and add facts about the saguaro cactus around the folded cactus piece. **You are required to add the same number of facts as the grade you are in (3 for 3rd, 4 for 4th, 5 for 5th, and 6 for 6th).**

Saguaro Cactus and Sonoran Desert Ecosystem: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vd-bybAMOPA>

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_____ **(15 points) Field Journal—Research, Record, & Report on Desert Flora (GRADED)**

Pick a desert plant from the list below to research and share with the class next week. On page 37 of your field journal, record what you discovered and be ready to share your most interesting finding with the class. **The page must include a picture or sketch of the plant, its most common location, in what type of desert it can be found, what type of plant, and its unique features and adaptations.** 3rd and 4th graders must have at least one unique feature/adaptation. 5th and 6th graders must have at least two unique features/adaptations. **CHOICES:** Joshua tree, mesquite grass, Welwitschia plant, prickly pear cactus, brittle bush, agave, tumbleweeds, quiver tree, organ pipe cactus, desert marigold, elephant tree, or teddy bear cholla.

_____ **(10 points) Earn Your Desert Flora Badge CHECKLIST**

Check off as you complete each activity. When checklist is complete, you will have earned your first **SHARE Jr. Ecologist** badge!

- _____ Complete the Cactus Take-Home Lab (pg 36) _____ Plant a Succulent (in class)
- _____ Read page 34 in Field Journal, Plant Adaptations
- _____ Complete Desert Flora Report (pg 37) _____ Eat a piece of Cactus (in class)
- _____ Take a sip of Aloe Vera juice drink (in class) _____ Try Aloe Vera gel (in class)
- _____ Observe Aloe Vera Plant and what is inside when cut (in class)
- _____ Complete Saguaro Cactus Field Journal Activity (pg 35)

_____ **(5 points) Start studying for Desert Unit Test**

Your first test will be sent home with you next week to be returned on September 27th. The test will cover some introductory material and what you have learned about the desert ecosystem. A link for a Jeopardy-style review game and electronic flashcards will be posted on Friday afternoon for you to use as a study guide. Try to spend 15 minutes reviewing what we have learned so far.

_____ **(5 points) Organization of Binder—** Reminders: keep your new homework checklist in the front of your binder as you work on it throughout the week, file the returned Week 2 checklist behind the homework checklist tab, file reading lessons 2 & 3 behind the reading lesson tab when you are finished reading them, and the class rules and expectations page that I returned last week can be filed behind the “other” tab.

Parent Signature: _____

Homework Completion Grade _____/70 points