

Sleepy Hollow High School
AP Environmental Science
Summer Assignments 2011

Welcome to AP Environmental Science (APES). The summer assignment below is required of all students taking AP Environmental Science. This assignment was developed with three goals in mind:

1. To review a few basic biology topics so that we can get into the content of the course as soon as possible,
2. To evaluate your ability to gather information from a variety of sources and to summarize the information in a coherent way, and
3. To give you a sense of the pace and depth of the AP Environmental Science course.

You should work on this assignment for about 1-2 hours per day for approximately 7-8 days. Enjoy the journey. I am looking forward to our year together.

Ms. Adamo
cadamo@tufsd.org

Assignment 1: Due August 24th

One goal of this course is to show students that environmental science is a dynamic and current area of study. The breadth of environmental science is expansive and covers a broad range of topics. Scientific information is disseminated to the public through a variety of media, including newspapers, magazines, broadcasting, Internet, etc. For this project you will collect and analyze newspaper and magazine articles.

Collection and Analysis:

You must collect six newspaper or magazine articles. Each selected article must be about or related to some aspect of environmental science – Gulf of Mexico oil spill, global warming, Hudson River Valley, mining, deforestation, economics and environmental science, natural history, overpopulation, etc. The articles do NOT need to share a central theme.

- Each article must be at least 250 words and selected from reputable news sources.
- Each article must be current (within the last year although current events are preferred).
- Only five articles may be selected from a single source. (*NY Times*, *Newsweek*, and the Internet are each considered to be a single source.)
- Each article must have the date and source of the article.
- Each article must have a typed summary (one paragraph 100-125 words). Please staple the article to your summary.

Assignment 2: Due August 31st

Ecosystems

The biosphere is composed of numerous ecosystems. Ecosystems are relatively isolated regions, and therefore are the functional units of study in environmental studies. All ecosystems share common characteristics, however, each ecosystem is unique in its own way. Our understanding of ecosystems and what makes them sustainable may be vital to the ultimate survival of humans. Unfortunately, human activity has greatly affected the stability of many ecosystems around the world.

You will choose an ecosystem to study and you will prepare and present a PowerPoint slideshow about your ecosystem. Your presentation cannot exceed 12 slides. Please email me at cadamo@tufsd.org the ecosystem you would like to study. You must receive approval for your ecosystem before you begin work!

Your PowerPoint must contain:

- A title page
- Slide of a map showing the location of your ecosystem (include the biome that your ecosystem is found within.)
- Slide detailing the abiotic conditions of the ecosystem. (temperature, rainfall, terrain)
- Slide showing the dominant flora (vegetation)
- Slide showing the dominant fauna (animals)
- Slide detailing a food chain or web for the ecosystem
- Slide detailing the impact of humans on the ecosystem
- What is the future of the ecosystem
- Any additional interesting facts
- Slide listing the source of your information

Points will be deducted for lateness.... you may drop it off in my mailbox in the main office, email it to me or mail it to the following address:

**Sleepy Hollow High School
210 North Broadway
Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591
Attn: Chris Adamo**