

Title:	
Science Investigative Reporters	
Developed by: Jane Blaile	
Discipline/Subject: science	
Topic: various depending on what topics are offered as choices	
Grade Level: 5-8	
Resources/References/materials Teacher Needs: project guidelines and rubric	
Lesson Summary: Students work in small groups to research a science topic for a class presentation.	
Standards Addressed: There will be science standards specific to the topics chosen for example, earth science, life science, or physical science topics.	
national standards:	
NL-ENG.K-12.8 Students use a variety of technological and information resources (e.g., libraries, databases, computer networks, video) to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge	
NL-ENG.K-12.7 Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions, and by posing problems. They gather, evaluate, and synthesize data from a variety of sources (e.g., print and nonprint texts, artifacts, people) to communicate their discoveries in ways that suit their purpose and audience.	
Alaska state standards:	
W2.2.2 [5] The student demonstrates an understanding of main idea by locating information in narrative and informational text to answer questions and related to main ideas or key details.	
R2.5.2 [5] The student writes for a variety of purposes and audiences by writing in a variety of nonfiction forms using appropriate information and structure	
Arizona state standards:	
Demonstrate research skills by:	
W-E8-PO1 selecting appropriate source for a specific research purpose, utilizing reference materials, writing a paraphrase of information from a source, recording relevant information taken from a research source, organizing notes and integrating notes into a finished product, incorporating notes into a finished product	
VP-E2 Plan, develop and produce a visual presentation, using a variety of media such as videos, films, newspapers, magazines and computer images	
Learning Objectives:	Method of Assessment for Learning:
In cooperative groups, the students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ use printed and electronic resources to find information about a chosen topic (application) ○ collect data on the chosen topic (synthesis) ○ collaborate with members of a small group (synthesis) ○ design and create a presentation of choice (synthesis) ○ use the presentation to teach others about chosen topic (application) 	rubric

Procedural Activities:

1. Offer students a selection of topics which to research or design cooperative groups to do research.
2. Distribute guidelines for reporter projects.
3. Review with students effective group work strategies such as dividing up the work then coming together to collaborate. Discuss decision making standards - majority rules? Emphasize the planning which should precede project work.
4. Ask each group to explain their plan and who will be doing what part of the work.
5. Provide electronic and printed resources as well as invite students to bring in resources.
6. Present mini-lessons on possible presentation methods such as HyperStudio, PowerPoint, Window Movie Maker, Excel, etc.
7. Allow in-class research time.
8. Oversee student research and presentation work time. Consider inviting parents in to help.
9. Give the students a day to practice their presentation for timing.
10. Have students sign up for presentation order and share.
11. Grade them according to the parts of the project.

Materials Students Need:

paper, pencil, computer access, any materials they might want for their presentations

Technology Used to Enhance Learning: any computer program students want to use to develop their presentation, Internet access, interactive white board for presentations

Other Information: It is helpful to give the students some guidelines about what you expect to see in their presentations. Instead of giving the general topic of Alaskan animals, tell them if there are any animals in particular they need to make sure they include or if they need to have an animal from each classification, etc.

Modifications for Special Learners/Enrichment Opportunities:

Form reporter groups purposefully choosing leaders and followers for each.

Videotape the presentations and make copies for students to take home.

Have reporter groups share presentations with another class.