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Coyote Ecology Research and Note-taking Graphic Organizer

Center for Urban Resilience

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Name: _____ Date: _____ Class
Period: _____

Expert Groups Coyote Ecology Research

Lesson Purpose: To conduct research on various aspects of coyote ecology in preparation for the creation of a group poster on the topic. Each sub-group will be given a topic listed below, including some key areas needed for researching each topic. Experts will gather and research the topic together. There will be 8 expert groups. After research is complete, each Home Group will reassemble (4 Home Groups) with 1 expert on each topic, who will then work together to create a poster. Groups will also be creating a teaching box for their presentation, so this research is critical to the success of the poster and the teaching box.

Research Resources: In addition to searching content-specific internet sites related to coyotes included on this handout, students can access the articles in the “Reading Materials” section of the Module 12 Lesson Resources. Students must use at a minimum two (2) internet sources and two (2) article readings. Videos may also be used, including notes from the video shown in class. Citations of all sources will be included on the poster (MLA format).

Research Topics:

1. **Ecology** – Scientific Classification, Conservation Status, Geographic Distribution, Home Range, Habitat
 - this section will focus on how coyotes are grouped (formal taxonomical chart); conservation status; where they are found; territory size; habitat preference
2. **Physiology & Evolution** - Morphology (Physical Characteristics), Genetic Variation, Evolution
 - this section will describe physical characteristics (male/female size, weight, pelage colors, etc.); include regional differences; how their physical characteristics have evolved and the evolutionary drivers
3. **Diet** - Predator-Prey, Food Chains, Human Food Subsidies, Changes in Diet over time
 - this section will explore the diet of the coyote; where it is in the food chain (mesopredator; top-order); main food sources; impact of human food subsidies (anthropogenic pressure) on diet; evolution of hunting & scavenging (feeding behaviors) over time
4. **Sociobiology** - Behavioral Characteristics, Vocalizations, Changes in Behavior over time, Coyote Facts
 - this section will focus on behavioral characteristics of the coyote and how they have evolved over time; also, fun and interesting facts others may not know
5. **Life Cycle** – Breeding, Reproduction, Family Group Dynamics

- this section will focus on coyote breeding & reproduction; including but not limited to litter size, pup raising, family structure; how long pups stay with parents, etc.
6. **Traits and Adaptations** – Traits, Resiliency, Coyotes in Myths & Legends, Adaptability/Resilience over time
- this section will focus on the coyote traits and adaptations over time (adaptability, resiliency, cunning, etc.); coyotes in myths and legends; coyote relationship to humans over time

Some Suggested Internet Resources:

- Project Coyote: <http://www.projectcoyote.org/>
- Narragansett Bay Coyote Study: <http://theconservationagency.org/narragansett-bay-coyote-study/>
- Coyotes (National Geographic): <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/c/coyote/>
- Information About Coyotes: <https://www.desertusa.com/animals/coyote.html>

Book Resources:

- Coyote America, a Natural and Supernatural History by Dan Flores

Article Resources (see Module 12 Reading Resources folder)

Research Notes:

- Source:
- Notes:

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- Source:
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