Zoo Poetry

Objective: Students will utilize science vocabulary and knowledge and express their understanding through poetry. This understanding will be extended by the students’ creation of their own animals and enclosures.

Method:

1. Students will have read to them, “If I Ran the Zoo” by Dr. Seuss.
2. Students will go to the zoo.
   1. choose two to three animals—taking features from each animal
   2. create their own “Dr. Seuss animal”
   3. design the habitat for your animal—make sure you note what features work well in your habitat
      1. which real life habitat on earth would be best suited for your creation (don’t forget to include things like Koppen climate classification, Goodall biome classification [ecosystem types])
   4. hypothesis if your organism will have a narrow or broad niche and explain why
   5. write a poem that tells the origin story of your animal (how it came to be [genetics], what is its purpose [benefits of this creature], how does it fit into its ecosystem [structure of the enclosure and where it can be found in nature])
3. Class time will be given to pull together a “presentation ready piece”

Evaluation:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Excellent | Good | Basic | Limited |
| Students will write to develop, organize, and express information and ideas | \*insightful exploration of topic  \*words and expressions are used accurately and deliberately | \*adept/plausible exploration of topic  \*specific words and expressions show some evidence of careful selection | \*clear/logical exploration of topic  \*words and expressions are used adequately | \*tenuous/simplistic exploration of topic  \*words and expressions are imprecise or improperly used |
| Students will demonstrate their understanding and make connections between concepts | \*keen understandings demonstrated through words and drawings | \*sound understandings demonstrated through words and drawings | \*basic understandings demonstrated through words and drawings | \*indistinct understandings demonstrated through words and drawings |
| Students represents ideas and creates understanding through a variety of media | \*deliberate and precise creation of animal and enclosure  \*creative inclusion of details as outlined in method | \*purposeful creation of animal and enclosure  \*sensible inclusion of details as outlined in method | \*predictable creation of animal and enclosure  \*relevant details included as outlined in method | \*indistinct creation of animal and enclosure  \*indiscriminate inclusion of details as outlined in method |