

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# ANIMAL REPORT DIRECTIONS:

1. Select an animal to research. **It must qualify as urban wildlife.** You will describe the animal, its natural habitat, and clearly explain how its urban habitat suits its needs. Feel free to choose an urban animal from any urbanized area of the world.
2. Complete the Web and use the “Notes Pages” to record your research.
3. Organize your information according to “Writing An Animal Report.” Your report will include **five paragraphs** [you may write additional paragraphs] that follow the “**Five Paragraph Essay**” that we’ve studied in class. Your writing must clearly focus on your chosen urban animal and how it survives in the city.
4. Follow the Writing Process of Pre-writing, Revising, Editing, and Publishing. Use double-line spacing on your rough draft. **YOU WILL TURN IN YOUR ROUGH DRAFT** and notes along with your Final Draft.
5. **REVISION:** Check your writing for clarity. Make sure you have communicated well, that there are no missing words or phrases, and that you have written exactly what you meant to write. Check for good, sensory language.
6. **EDITING:** Carefully check your spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.
7. Create a **TITLE PAGE** using a sheet of computer paper. Make an illustration of your urban animal on the page. The image needs to fill the page and be neatly colored. The title of the report should be neatly printed at the top and your name should be neatly printed in the lower-right corner.
8. **Assemble and staple** your completed report as follows:
  - A. Title Page
  - B. The Final Draft of your report
  - C. The Rough Draft of your report
  - D. The completed web
  - E. The “Notes Pages”
  - F. The completed rubric



# Writing an Animal Report

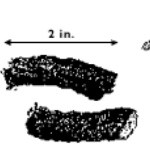
## Getting Started:



First, get to know about your animal. Read as much information about the animal as you can find. Try both the Internet and the library; try a good search engine, an encyclopedia, and individual books on animals.

As you're reading about your animal, take notes on key information, such as where your animal lives (its range and habitat), how big your animal gets, what it looks like, what it eats, what eats it, how long it lives (if this is known), etc. **THE NOTES PAGES ARE THE "EMPTY BOXES" PAGES.**

## The Structure of the Animal Report:



**IN YOUR OWN WORDS—DO NOT COPY SOMEONE ELSE'S WRITING.** Write **five** paragraphs that clearly describe your urban animal and how it's able to survive in the city. Use the three-paragraph report that we've studied in class.

## Research Details Your Report Should Include...

When you write your report, try to answer as many of the following questions as you can (unfortunately, not all of these things are known for all animals):

**Classification:** How is this animal classified and what animals is it closely related to? In the Linnean system of classification, organisms are classified into a Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, and species. For example, elk are classified as follows: Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Chordata, Class Mammalia ([mammals](#)), Order [Artiodactyla](#), Suborder Ruminantia (ruminants), Family [Cervidae](#) (the deer family), Genus *Cervus*, species *C. elaphus* (species names are often italicized and written in lower-case; the C. here refers to the genus *Cervus*).

**The Animal's Name:** What does its [name](#) mean? Sometimes this will tell you something important or interesting about the animal. For example, platypus means "flat-footed." For some animals, there are [special names for a baby, a male, a female, or a group](#). Also, list your animal's scientific name; this should consist of a capitalized genus name and a lower-case species name. For example, the platypus is *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*.

## **Anatomy/Appearance**

What does your animal look like? How big is it? What shape is its body? What does an average one weigh? Does it have horns, antlers, fur, crests or claws? Describe the teeth, head, neck, tail, etc. How many legs does it have? Are its legs long or short? Does it molt as it grows? Make an illustration of your urban animal on computer paper. The image needs to fill the page and be neatly colored. This will be the title page of your report. Neatly print the title of the report at the top and your name in the lower-right corner.



## **Locomotion**

How does your animal move—does it crawl, hop, burrow, or walk? Is it slow-moving or fast-moving? How does this affect its survival? For example, most fast-moving animals are fast so that they can catch dinner (like the cheetah) or avoid becoming dinner (like the deer).

## **Diet**

What does your animal eat and how does it get its food? Is it an herbivore (plant eater), carnivore (meat eater), omnivore (eating meat and plants), or something else? Is there something unusual in the way your animal eats? (For example, the flamingo sieves its food from mud while its head is upside down under the water.) Where is your animal in the [food web](#) (is it a top predator, like the grizzly bear, is it at the base of the food web, like krill, or is it somewhere in the middle)?

## **Habitat and Range and Sheltering**

What is its natural habitat (does it live in the desert, swamp, tundra, deep sea, coral reef, tropical rainforest, pond, etc.) and how does its urban area meet its needs? What kind of shelter does your animal use? (Nests, caves, burrows, etc.) Where in the world does it live?

## **Adaptations**

What are the obvious adaptations of your animal to its environment? For example, the giraffe's neck is an adaptation for obtaining leaves that are high off the ground. It also has tough lips to avoid thorns on its main food source. You specifically need to find the adaptations your animal has which help it to survive in an urban area.

## Life Cycle/Reproduction

Explain your animal's mating behavior/reproduction cycle. For instance, if it lays eggs, explain when the eggs are laid, give the number of eggs, tell how long it takes for the eggs to hatch, and what kind of care is given the young.

## Behavior

Describe interesting features of your animal's behavior. For example: Is there evidence of herding or is it a solitary animal? Does it burrow underground? Does it hibernate, estivate, or migrate in cold weather? Is it nocturnal (most active at night)?

## Predators

What are the predators of your animal?

## Defense of its Young or Itself

How does it defend itself (and/or attack other animals)? Does it use teeth, fangs, claws, armor, horns, antlers, pincers, poison, a stinger, muscles, a strong smell, and/or something else?

## Something Special

Is there anything special about this animal? This is often the best part of the report. For example, are there legends about the animal?

