

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

1. Introduction: What is biodiversity? Why does biodiversity matter? Give examples of how biodiversity benefits BOTH natural ecosystems and people. Give examples from in-class lessons and your own research. (6 pts)

Score	Criteria
6	- Includes a definition of biodiversity that included multiple levels (genetic, species, and/or ecosystem diversity) - Includes multiple examples of how biodiversity may benefit ecosystems (possible answers: stabilizing effect on food-webs, beneficial relationships between species, resilience to ecological change, etc.) - Includes multiple examples of how biodiversity benefits people directly, and/or indirectly through improved ecosystem services (food, medicine, erosion prevention, pollination of crops, sequestering of carbon, etc..) - Examples demonstrate understand of in-class lessons, and research from an additional source
5	One of the above criteria missing, incomplete, or incorrect
4	TWO or more of the above criteria missing, incomplete, or incorrect
1-3	MULTIPLE criteria missing, incomplete or incorrect

2. Hypothesis - Which sites did you believe would have the MOST and LEAST bird biodiversity and why? - See your original hypothesis in your notebook. (2 pts)

Score	Criteria
2	- Includes predictions for sites with the MOST and LEAST bird biodiversity - Includes explanation and reasoning for WHY these predictions were made
1	Includes predictions ONLY for the sites with the MOST OR LEAST bird biodiversity, and/or does NOT include explanation and reasoning for why

3. Results - Which sites(s) had the highest variety of bird species? Which sites had the highest count of individual birds? Was your hypothesis correct? Use evidence from at LEAST 2 of the [graphs from our survey](#). Refer to the graph number (ie figure 2 shows _____). (4 pts)

Score	Criteria
4	• Makes an accurate claim about which site(s) had the highest variety of bird species • Make an accurate claim about which site(s) had the highest number of individual birds • States whether the initial hypothesis was correct • Supports claims with evidence from at least TWO graphs from the class data
3	One of the above criteria missing, incomplete, or incorrect
1-2	TWO or more of the above criteria missing, incomplete, or incorrect

4. Discussion - What are some factors that could affect bird biodiversity at school? Which factors do you think contributed the most to the sites with the highest bird biodiversity? Use data from our class results, and at least one outside source (6 pts)

Score	Criteria
6	• Identifies MULTIPLE factors that may have affected the number of species and birds observed at multiple sites • Supports claims with data from the class data • Supports claims with additional research from at least ONE outside source
5	One of the above criteria missing, incomplete, or incorrect
4	TWO or more of the above criteria missing, incomplete, or incorrect
1-3	MULTIPLE criteria missing, incomplete or incorrect

5. Action: Based on our results, what can we do to increase the biodiversity of birds on campus? Give specific recommendations on what we should plant or build **and why**. Include suggestions for where we should focus (planter box outside our classroom, the gardens, open spaces on the hills, etc...) (4 pts)

Score	Criteria
4	• Makes MULTIPLE, recommendations to support bird biodiversity on campus • Recommendations are SPECIFIC enough they could be acted upon (ie, they include locations, specific species to plant, etc...) • Recommendations are supported by data from the investigation • Recommendations are supported by research from at least ONE outside source
3	One of the above criteria missing, incomplete, or incorrect
1-2	TWO or more of the above criteria missing, incomplete, or incorrect

6. Reflection - What will you remember from this project? What did you enjoy? What would you change if we did something like this again next year? (2 pts)

Score	Criteria
2	• Thoughtful reflection that includes takeaways from the project AND suggestions for improvement
1	Incomplete, does not include current takeaways or ideas for improvement.