VERNON MALONE
COLLEGE AND CAREER ACADEMY

PROJECT TITLE: Evolution in Action: Saving a Species

COURSE: AP Biology

INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Wimberly

DRIVING QUESTION

How can we use our understanding of natural selection to protect endangered species?

PROJECT SUMMARY

Students will develop a conservation proposal for an endangered species, using their understanding of natural selection and evolution. Students will select a species, investigate the biological and environmental factors affecting its survival, and analyze how natural selection, genetics, and ecosystem interactions shape its evolutionary future. They will use their research to develop a written conservation plan with the goal of improving long-term survival for the species.

REAL-WORLD CONTEXT

This project is based on real-world conservation work. Students will analyze ecological data, apply scientific reasoning, and create a conservation plan to present to an audience. The project raises awareness about species decline and biodiversity loss. It connects to students' interests by allowing them to choose a species they care about and explore issues that they may be concerned about, such as wildlife protection, climate change, and ecosystem health.

PRODUCTS & AUDIENCE

Students will complete several different activities throughout the unit to ensure their understanding of natural selection topics. These include simulations, virtual labs, and modeling. Teams will develop a written conservation plan for the species of their choice and a presentation with a visual aid (slide presentation, research poster, brochure, etc.).

STUDENT REFLECTIONS

- "Honestly presenting to the class was helpful, since we are the future so making these changes depends on us."
- "Teamwork and boundaries really are important when it came to the group activities."

NC PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE SKILLS GAINED

COLLABORATION | COMMUNICATION | LEARNER'S MINDSET | CRITICAL THINKING | PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

TEACHER REFLECTION

"The Saving a Species PBL was a positive experience for our AP Biology class. Students researched and endangered species to analyze the biological, environmental, and human-driven pressures affecting its survival. They developed a conservation plan designed to improve the species' long-term viability and presented their findings. They collaborated effectively, they communicated with each other well, and they were effective with their research and problem-solving skills. I am proud of their resilience, despite school delays and cancellations. They were able to adjust to an abbreviated timeline and deliver their presentations on time. If AP Biology classes complete this project in the future, I may consider giving students more choice in the product format."