

Grade Level: 7th

Summary:

Students discover unique living beings as they develop oral and written presentations describing organisms and their environment.

Technology Tools:

AlphaSmart 3000

 **AlphaSmart Tip:**

Now, you can select **Neo by AlphaSmart**, the **AlphaSmart 3000**, **Dana by AlphaSmart**, or **Dana Wireless** for this lesson.

Internet sites:

Search Engine
www.google.com

 **AlphaSmart Tip:**

Ms. Toney's students could also use Neo by AlphaSmart and *beam* their discoveries to each other! With Dana by AlphaSmart or Dana Wireless, students could take advantage of science programs designed for the Palm OS, such as *Crickometer* (see <http://www.freewarepalm.com/calculator/crickometer.shtml>) or many of the science applications featured at Tony Vincent's Planet 5th web site (see <http://www.mpsomaha.org/willow/p5/handhelds>).

Science and Literature Search Engine
http://dmoz.org/Arts/Literature/Genres/Science_Fiction

Science Resources
www.seaworld.com
www.nationalgeographic.com
www.animalplanet.com

Step-by-step tasks:

Introduction

1. Introduce vocabulary words, such as *organism*, *niche*, and *environment*.
2. Provide students with an outline or template for gathering information during media research.

 **AlphaSmart Tip:**

With **Neo by AlphaSmart**, or **AlphaSmart 3000** devices upgraded with System 3, the teacher can create Linked Files that provide a way for students to easily access checklists and rubrics while working in any **Neo** or **AlphaSmart 3000** file space. The outline or template—described above—could be sent as a Linked File to each student's AlphaSmart device.

3. Schedule a visit to the school media center for online research. Be sure to demonstrate how to cite resources.
4. Use the template (or Linked File) to gather information.
5. Use the information to compile a brief written report.
6. Send the report to a computer for formatting and to add graphics.

 **AlphaSmart Tip:**

Students can send their work from any AlphaSmart device directly to *Inspiration*, *Kidspiration* or *PowerPoint*.

7. Practice and present an oral presentation describing the organism and its role in its environment.

Extension ideas:

Create a story about a fictional organism. Students compare/contrast the characteristics of the fictional organism with the non-fiction information they know about the organism and its environment.

Home-to-school connection:

Check local TV and cable listings for shows about organisms. Prepare Anticipation Guides, or viewing guides, so students can note important information as they watch the show.