

Rubric: Characteristics and comparison of plankton and larvae

Students will construct a cube to compare the lives of "baby" Sea Urchins (larvae), phytoplankton, and zooplankton. Students should identify their characteristics, life expectancy, and importance to the ocean ecosystem. The 6-sided object should creatively display their key characteristics, food web, and importance to the ocean ecosystem, and ours.



Protist Comparison Cube

	Poor - Needs Improvement 0 pts	Fair 2 pts	Good 3 pts	Exceeds Expectations 6 pts
1. Characteristics comparison 30 % Present characteristics of both zooplankton, phytoplankton, and larvae of Sea Urchins.	Poor - Needs Improvement The cube has does not have this information.	Fair The cube compares two of the three organism groups, but the student's written work does not clearly compare and contrast the three groups.	Good The cube compares two of the three organism groups, but the student clearly compares and contrasts the two groups.	Exceeds Expectations The cube includes all characteristics of three organism groups. The work clearly compares and contrasts the them.
2. Food Web 15 %	Poor - Needs Improvement No information on the food web of zooplankton, phytoplankton, or larvae of the sea urchin.	Fair Minimal information on the food web of zooplankton, phytoplankton, or larvae of the sea urchin.	Good Two of the three groups have substantial information on the food web of zooplankton, phytoplankton, or larvae of the sea urchin.	Exceeds Expectations All three groups have substantial information on the food web of zooplankton, phytoplankton, or larvae of the sea urchin.
3. Life Expectancy 15 % How long do plankton live? What about the larvae of Sea Urchins?	Poor - Needs Improvement No information on this category.	Fair Information on two of the three organisms. Brief, or incomplete data is displayed.	Good The life expectancy of two of three groups is displayed.	Exceeds Expectations The life expectancy of all three groups is displayed.
4. Importance 15 %	Poor - Needs Improvement Little or no information on the importance of this group to the ocean ecosystem and humans.	Fair Some information is present on the importance of this group to the ocean ecosystem and humans. Little evidence of research.	Good Detailed information is present on the importance of this group to the ocean ecosystem and humans. Most is not researched.	Exceeds Expectations Exemplary information is present on the importance of this group to the ocean ecosystem and humans. There is evidence of research.
5. Images 15 % Variation of these species are displayed in visual format (drawings or images.)	Poor - Needs Improvement One or two images.	Fair Three to four images are included, but do not show all the groups. Images are only in black and white.	Good Four or five images are included, and these clearly show all zooplankton, phytoplankton, and the larvae of Sea Urchins.	Exceeds Expectations More than five colorful images are included, and these clearly show all zooplankton, phytoplankton, and the larvae of Sea Urchins.
6. Overall Design 5 % Student planned the layout, and organization of the cube. Images, type, and color are considered and effective.	Poor - Needs Improvement Images are drawn too small, images are centered on the face of the cube, and lacks creativity in composition. The cube does not appear to have been carefully completed.	Fair The information on the cube has 1-2 images centered, some images are drawn too small, and there is a lack of creativity. The cube does not give an impression that it is well planned	Good The information on most of the cube includes creative compositions, including images that are cropped, placed on angles, etc. Creativity is evident. The cube is attractive, and well planned.	Exceeds Expectations The information on the cube includes interesting placement, images that are cropped, and creative compositions on all faces. Views are zoomed and "out of the box" thinking is evident on all faces. The overall look of the cube shows tremendous effort.
7. Craftsmanship 5 %	Poor - Needs Improvement The cube has 5-6 sides that are not cut neatly and/or glued correctly.	Fair The cube has 3-4 sides that are not cut neatly and/or glued correctly.	Good The cube has 1-2 sides that are not cut neatly and/or glued correctly.	Exceeds Expectations The cube is cut out neatly, assembled, and glued correctly. The surface of the cube is neat, edges are straight, and all work is secured neatly.

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