**Common Name (s):** Many plants and animals are known by more than one name. List the most common names.

Pictures of organism

Write this in 20-point font.

***Scientific Name***: This is the Genus and species. Always write the scientific name in *italics*. Always capitalize the Genus, and lowercase for species. Write this in 20-point font.

\*\*Everything else is in 12-point font. The text should be regular, but the section headings should be BOLD.

The entire profile should fit on two pages. It must be perfect because we are publishing them

**Habitat:** Here you describe TWO things:

1) the type of ecosystem the organism prefers: sandy substrate, bright sun, etc… This should include WHERE in the ecosystem it is found: intertidal zone, in the swales, on a dune, lower portions of rocky cliffs, etc…

2) Where in the world the organism is found: is it found in salt marshes throughout the world? Only on northeastern US beaches?

\*\*NOTE: if you discover that you have chosen a species that does not live in our area, you must choose a new species now.

**Description:** Do this part LAST, but put it in this location.

Describe what this species looks like, and how to distinguish it from similar species.

Next, describe how its physical characteristics serve as adaptations in its environment: shells, beaks, coloration, roots, etc… all serve particular purposes. YOUR job is to think creatively how these help the organism survive.

**Diet: (for animals) OR Growth: (for plants)**

For **animals,** describe what it eats and how it gets its food.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? What is unique about the way your animal eats? Where is your animal in the [food web](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/rainforest/animals/Foodweb.shtml)?

For **plants**, describe its growth pattern: is it deciduous or coniferous? Is it herbaceous or woody? How does it spread (rhizomes, bulbs, etc..) Is it an annual, biennial, or perennial, and what does this mean? When does it flower, fruit, and go to seed?

**Threats:** First, name all of the non-human predators that limit this species' growth, and tell how it is a threat (Does it eat your species, or does it only compete with your species for space or food?)

Next, describe three or more human activities that threaten this species. This could include ways that humans damage this species' habitat, or sometimes the human hunts or harvests this species directly.

**Ecological Importance:** First state your specie's conservation status. You will find that it is:

Critically Endangered (CR) – Extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

Endangered (EN) – High risk of extinction in the wild.

Vulnerable (VU) – High risk of endangerment in the wild.

Near Threatened (NT) – Likely to become endangered in the near future.

Least Concern (LC)- Widespread and abundant taxa are included in this category.

Next describe the ROLE your species plays in the environment. Why is it important? Which other populations of species would change if yours were to go missing?

Think hard about this next question, because sometimes the answer is elusive: How is the species important to humans? (This may not be something you can Google…you will have to use your creative mind in most cases.)

**Something Special:** Here you list a few interesting facts you discovered about your species that are not listed elsewhere.

**References:** Here you must include four (4) references.

Wikipedia is an EXCELLENT place to start, but you must verify the data that you find there using other websites or encyclopedias. You will receive **extra credit** if you use at least one source that is not a website.

\*\*You must cite the references properly, as shown in the example below:

* **Web Site:** Author(s) if appropriate. *Title of Site or web page*. URL of site, date of publication (the earliest copyright year listed).
* **Book:** Author(s). *Title of book*. Edition. Location of publisher: Name of Publisher, year of publication.
* **Encyclopedia:** *Title of encyclopedia*, volume of encyclopedia used. Location of publisher: Name of Publisher, year of publication, pages where the article is located.
* **Magazine or Journal:** Author(s). "Title of article." *Name of magazine*, Volume.issue (date): pages where the article is located.

**Extra Space**: If you have extra space at the end, you may include thumbnails of other pictures of your organism in this space.

Do NOT go over two pages in total length.

You must PRINT your first draft; then PRINT AND EMAIL your final draft. (porchedduj@gmail.com)