

A New Critter & Its Niche!

Background Info:

In class, we have been learning about organisms and their niches. You have a definition, class discussion, and notes from "Meerkat Manor" that you may refer to.

Your Tasks:

You will be drawing a picture of a critter that you create! You must also explain its niche! You should use what you know about niches to help you complete these tasks.

Drawing Task: Create a completely new critter in an existing habitat.

Things to Consider:

- You can choose any habitat that you would like – ocean, desert, forest, tundra, etc.
- This critter should be something new – not currently found anywhere. And must have certain traits that are unique to it.
- Be sure to draw what it eats, any other critters that it interacts with (include things that might want to eat it!), and any abiotic features that it might interact with.

Writing Task: Write 3 paragraphs to explain your drawing. Each paragraph should be 4 – 7 sentences and should utilize your best conventions, ideas, and word choice. Completely describe your critter's niche.

Paragraph 1:

- Describe how the critter gathers food/water for energy use. Discuss:
 - What do they eat?
 - How does the critter gather their food and water?

Paragraph 2:

- Describe its habits. Discuss:
 - How does it spend its day?
 - Time when it is active?
 - Social behavior (grooming? Live alone? Live in a group? Etc.)

Paragraph 3:

- Describe the critters role in its community. Be sure to discuss the following items:
 - How does it affect the land? Other organisms?
 - How does it interact with others of its kind?
 - Is it food for other organisms?