

Wanted for Being a Model Organism!

You are going to develop and apply your knowledge about a model organism to create a ‘wanted poster’ and a short paper. You can use your own creativity and inventiveness to give your organism some “personality” and “preferences” but specific information about the organism’s biology should remain as factual and accurate as possible. Make your poster a coherent collection of information about your organism, rather than a disconnected list of answers to the questions.

Step One: Observations/Research

Use resources such as the internet, articles, and books to research your assigned ‘critter’. Be sure to cite your resources. Word process your information and be neat and organized.

You may trace, redraw, or modify pictures or diagrams to use on your poster. Retain accuracy and detail in your pictures. Below each picture, include a legend that describes the picture (for example: “Here the suspect is attached to a ...”).

Step Two: Questions to Consider

In your paper you must address all of the points listed below. On your poster include as much information as possible:

Taxonomy

1. Name and Relations – Give the suspect’s scientific name. List the suspect’s taxonomy as specifically as possible. State scientific or common names of related organisms.
2. Aliases, AKA (also known as) – What are the common names for the organism?

Body Plan

1. Identifying Features – Provide a detailed description of the suspect’s appearance, shape, size, color, texture, symmetry, segmentation (y/n), skeletal features, etc.
2. Distinguishing Marks – What distinguishes the suspect from its relatives? For example, what would allow you to pick the suspect out of a line-up of its relatives? What features are unique, special, or peculiar about the suspect?

Development

1. Juvenile Record – Describe the suspect’s earlier appearance(s). That is, life stages and life cycle. How big will the suspect grow? If there is no difference, describe reproductive strategy of parents.
2. Police Sketches – Create drawings to support information about the organism’s life stages and cycle or how it was produced.

General Ecology

1. Last Whereabouts – Describe the suspect’s specific microhabitat. (Such as: under a rock, in shallow water near the shoreline, surrounded by plant material, etc.)
2. Preferred Hangouts – Describe the suspect’s biological community. Which populations of organisms live around the suspect? What is the suspect’s niche?
3. Rap Sheet – For example, ciliary gliding without a license, carrying a concealed pharynx, construction of a case without a permit.

Locomotion

1. Suspect Last Seen Heading Towards – Possible destinations within the suspect’s habitat.

2. Means of Getaway – Provide a detailed description of the suspect’s pattern or means of locomotion.
3. Caution When Apprehending – What makes the organism dangerous/fragile/difficult? Describe the suspect’s escape and defense mechanisms.

Why the Suspect is Wanted

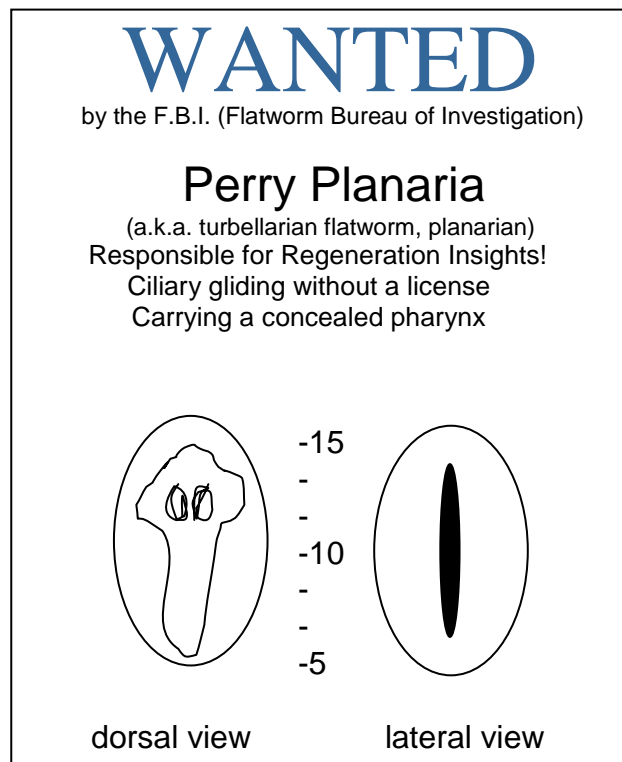
1. Speculations - why is your organism a model organism? What research has your model organism contributed to? Is your model organism famous? Explain.

Step Three: Create a Visual

Your poster must include visuals that you create. Your visuals can be hand drawn, traced, or created on the computer. If photocopied or printed out from the web, be sure to include citation. Include a descriptive drawing of your invertebrate. This drawing should be large enough to label any distinguishing features. You may decide to create a ‘profile’ (side view) of the organism.

Step Four: Create Your Poster

The ‘wanted poster’ is a creative outlet for you to show your expertise on your organism. Your goal is to produce a unique poster while highlighting accurate biological information. The dimensions of your poster should be 12” X 18” (large construction paper). See your teacher if you need paper. You may draw/write directly on the poster or cut and paste. Example of partially completed poster:



Step Five: Checklist (Make sure you have met the requirements.)

- _____ Research is complete and included in my paper (1 page). Work is cited. Information is word-processed or written neatly.
- _____ All points are covered.
- _____ Necessary information (enough to apprehend the organism) is included on the poster.
- _____ Visuals are accurate, neat and labeled.

Wanted Poster Rubric

	Excellent	Acceptable	Needs Improvement
<p>Content (scientific information)</p> <p>_____pts. out of 50</p>	<p><u>All</u> of the required biological information is presented on the poster. <u>All</u> of the information is accurate. Paper is detailed and accurate.</p>	<p><u>Most</u> of the required biological information is presented on the poster. <u>Some</u> of the accuracy may be sacrificed to embellish the poster. Paper has an adequate amount of detail.</p>	<p><u>Little</u> of the required biological information is presented on the poster. <u>Some</u> of the information is inaccurate. Paper lacks detail.</p>
<p>Quality of Ideas</p> <p>_____pts. out of 20</p>	<p>The ideas on the poster are rich in thought and imagination, relevant to the story line and clearly presented.</p>	<p>The ideas on the poster are sound but unimaginative; most ideas are relevant to the story line.</p>	<p>The ideas on the poster are unimaginative, not relevant to the story line, undeveloped or incomplete.</p>
<p>Organization</p> <p>_____pts. out of 10</p>	<p>The work (paper and poster) are well organized and complete.</p>	<p>The poster is well organized but the paper is not... or paper is well organized while the poster is not.</p>	<p>Neither the paper nor the poster are organized well.</p>
<p>Drawing/Picture</p> <p>_____pts. out of 20</p>	<p>The drawing/picture is exceptional. It is accurate, neat and labeled.</p>	<p>The drawing/picture is of good quality. It is accurate, neat and labeled.</p>	<p>The drawing/picture is of poor quality. It may be accurate, neat or labeled (Not all three.)</p>