THE BIG SIX
STEPS TO RESEARCH
GRADE 5

The Big Six (by Bob Berkowitz & Mark Eisenberg)

➢ TASK DEFINITION

What is your assignment?
What information do you need in order to do it?

➢ PLANNING YOUR RESEARCH

Brainstorm all of the possible places you could find your information
Which of these are best for you to use?

➢ LOCATE YOUR INFORMATION

Find the place in a book, on the web, or in the world where the
information you need is located.

➢ USE THE INFORMATION

Read the information.
Record the information.
    --Take notes
    --Sketch
Remember to write down the sources that you used.

➢ SYNTHESIZE

Take the information you have gathered and complete your
assignment.

➢ EVALUATION

Look at your project. Did you follow all the directions? Could you
have done a better job?
Invertebrates and Vertebrates Sample Lesson

Summary:
Students will research the characteristics of invertebrates and vertebrates. They will study the environment, social behavior, physical traits, and habitats of an invertebrate and vertebrate they have chosen to study. Students will complete the attached “Big Six” worksheet while researching for information. After completing research, students will use a Venn Diagram to present their findings. This diagram will be used to help them organize the information for a Power Point presentation.

The classroom teacher, school media specialist and computer teacher will work collaboratively on this project.

Task Definition

The teacher will introduce the topic “Invertebrates and Vertebrates.” The teacher and students will brainstorm and list as many invertebrates and vertebrates as possible. Students will pick an invertebrate and vertebrate from this list to compare and contrast. Teacher will formulate central question.

What are the differences and similarities between invertebrates and vertebrates?
Students will decide what information they need in order to complete project. They will brainstorm questions to research. These may include:

♦ Where do they live?
♦ What do they eat?
♦ How do they move?
♦ How do they reproduce?
♦ What are their physical traits?
♦ How do they breathe?

Information Seeking Strategies

Students will brainstorm all the possible places they could find the information:

- General encyclopedias
- Specialized encyclopedias
- Periodicals
- Books
- Videos
- CD-ROMs
- Internet (See attached list of Web sites.)
- Interview with scientist (ie: Cold Spring Harbor Labs)

Students will decide which sources are best to use.

- What is available in the school media center?
- Is a class trip possible?
- Does the school have Internet access?
- Are the materials age appropriate?
- Is the data current?

Location and Access

Students will develop search strategy and key words to use the OPAC (automated card catalogue) in media center.

They will create key word list for searching in print and electronic resources.
After they have located the resource, they will identify facts in the resource by scanning and using the index or table of contents.

**Use of Information**

Students will gather information, take notes and create a Venn Diagram (see attached) presenting the similarities and differences of the animals.

They will record the sources used in their research process on the bibliography work sheet provided (see attached).

The students will continue to refer to the Big Six™ worksheet.

**Synthesis**

Students will create a Power Point presentation exhibiting research findings.

They will import pictures from the Internet, clip art or scanner and use other multimedia to display findings.

**Evaluation**

Before presenting information, students will evaluate their product according to the rubric criteria designed by teacher and students.

Students will answer questions from peers and teacher after presentation. They will evaluate work.
HOW TO CREATE A BIBLIOGRAPHY  
(MLA Format)- FIFTH GRADE

BOOKS

❖ One Author:
Last name, First name. Title of Book. City of Publication: Publisher, Copyright date.

❖ Two Authors:
Last name, First name, and First name Last name. Title of Book. City of Publication: Publisher, Copyright date.
(Jakobson, Roman, and Linda Waugh. The Sound Shape of Language. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1979.)

ENCYCLOPEDIA

Last name, First name. “Title of Entry.” Title of Encyclopedia. Date of edition.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Last name, First name. “Title of Article.” Title of Newspaper, Date of publication, Section number or name: Page of article.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

Last name, First name. “Title of Article.” Title of Magazine Volume number, Date of Publication: Page numbers of article.
**VIDEOTAPE**

Title. Videotape. Director. Distributor, Year.


**INTERNET/WWW RESOURCES**

- **Online encyclopedia:**
  Author (if available). “Title of item.” Source. Date. Internet address.

- **Web page:**
  Title. Date created. Source. Date you saw it. Internet address.
  [http://www.aip.org/history/einstein/](http://www.aip.org/history/einstein/))

**COMPUTER DATABASE**

“Title of Entry.” Title of CD-ROM or software. CD-ROM. Publication Company, Year

of Publication.

(“Icon.” Microsoft Encarta. CD-ROM. Microsoft, 1993.)

**INTERVIEW**

Last name of person interviewed, First name. Personal interview. Date.
(Mason, Robert. Personal Interview. 26 Jan 1999.)