Thanksgiving Break Extra Credit Projects

Students may complete any combination of the following options in order to earn up to 25 points during Thanksgiving break. Students are to work on projects individually. It’s fine if you want to travel together for the scavenger hunt or watch movies together, but each student must turn in his/her own scrapbook with pictures of himself/herself and answer the movie questions individually. Extra credit points will be awarded in test category. Projects are due by 2:50pm on Monday when we return from Thanksgiving break. There is NO late date for 50% off with extra credit.

A. Go on a scavenger hunt: You can explore nature and the greater Los Angeles area. Each item on the list counts as one point. In order to earn those points, you need to take a picture of yourself or a photo ID with the item. You then need to present those pictures in either a PowerPoint presentation or a scrapbook. Each photo needs a caption that contains the title of the item pictured and the location where the photograph was taken. Each pictured item earns one extra credit point. Follow these rules when working on this project.

- Please be careful to NOT DESTROY any habitats as you visit and collect your pictures.
- Plants that have red spots or red areas on the stem or leaf may be poisonous...DO NOT TOUCH!
- A photograph of you with an item can only count for one point once. For example, if you take a picture with a mushroom, that can be used to earn a point for EITHER mushroom OR fungus, not both.
- Do your research beforehand to determine what a specimen should look like and where to find it.

B. Read a book: You can choose a book from the list and earn 10 points each. Be sure to complete EACH of the following steps to earn full credit:

- Read the book.
- Answer the questions on the worksheet linked to the title of the book in your own handwriting. (Answers can NOT be typed).
- Complete the supplemental reading verification form and have your parents sign it.
C. Movie Reports (5 points per report) Write a report on a Biology related movie. Simply read the book or watch the movie and write at least a one page (NOT typed) report that answers the following question - "How does this book or movie relate to what we study (or have studied) in class?" Some movies that I recommend are below. If you have a movie idea that is not on the list, ask me before writing a report to make sure it's approved.

- Osmosis Jones
- Jurassic Park
- Finding Nemo
- Fern Gully
- The Martian
- Medicine Man
- Outbreak
- GATTACA

D. Listen to a podcast: You can listen to as many RadioLab podcasts as are listed below. Each podcast has an accompanying worksheet to complete while you listen, worth up to 3 points each. The podcasts are only an hour long and EXTREMELY interesting.

- **Stress, Season 1**: Stanford University neurologist Dr. Robert Sapolsky takes us through what happens on our insides when we stand in the wrong line at the supermarket, and offers a few coping strategies: gnawing on wood, beating the crap out of somebody, and having friends. Plus: the story of a singer who lost her voice, and an author stuck in a body that never grew up.
- **Sleep, Season 3**: Every creature on the planet sleeps--from giant humpback whales to teeny fruit flies. What does it do for us, and what happens when we go without? We take a peek at iguanas sleeping with one eye open, get in bed with a pair of sleep-deprived new parents, and eavesdrop on the uneasy dreams of rats.
- **Memory and Forgetting, Season 3**: Remembering is an unstable and profoundly unreliable process--it’s easy come, easy go as we learn how true memories can be obliterated, and false ones added. And Oliver Sacks joins us to tell the story of an amnesiac whose love for his wife and music transcend his 7-second memory.
- **Laughter, Season 4**: If you look closely, you'll find that humor has very little to do with it. We ask what makes us laugh, and how it affects us. Along the way, we tickle some rats, listen in on a baby's first laugh, talk to a group of professional laughers, and travel to Tanzania to investigate an outbreak of contagious laughter.
- **Race, Season 5**: When the human genome was first fully mapped in 2000, Bill Clinton, Craig Venter, and Francis Collins took the stage and pronounced that "The concept of race has no genetic or scientific basis." Great words spoken with great intentions. But what do they really mean, and where do they leave us?
genes are nearly all the same, but that hasn't made race meaningless or wiped out our evolving conversation about it.

- **Inheritance, Season 11**: Once a kid is born, their genetic fate is pretty much sealed. Or is it? This hour, we put nature and nurture on a collision course and discover how outside forces can find a way inside us, shaping not just our hearts and minds, but the basic biological blueprint that we pass on to future generations.

- **BIGGER THAN BACON**: This story starts with a sound around a dock in South Carolina, and then goes from submarines to superheroes, from the surface of the sun to the middle of the brain. It is a mystery, shockingly hot, and vanishingly tiny. I couldn't find it in the archive, so here is the link to it.

- **Intelligent Plant, PRI interview**: Michael Pollan wrote an article in The New Yorker with this title. This interview by Ira Flatow for PRI Science Friday discusses the new research into plant intelligence. Use this link to access this interview, as you won't find it on RadioLab.