Biome Webquest

Introduction
A travel agency is trying to boost travel to different parts of the world by increasing their advertising and selling vacation packages. You have been hired to make a presentation to sell a travel package.

Task
Working as a group, develop a 3-5 minute presentation with a visual aid (poster, wiki page, PowerPoint, brochure, etc.) to sell your vacation package to the class.

Vacation Packages:
- Taiga (coniferous forest)
- Tundra
- Tropical rain forest
- Desert
- Temperate grassland (prairie)
- Savannah (also listed as grasslands on some sites)
- Temperate deciduous forest

Process
Each team will be assigned a biome by the teacher. It is the team’s job to research the biome and gather facts and information about that biome. Each member of the team will become an expert in a particular aspect of the biome. As a group the team will create a visual aid to be used in the presentation and showcase their biome as a vacation spot.

Team roles:
- Ecologist (plant and animal expert)
- Meteorologist (weather expert)
- Geographer (Map and area expert)

Discuss with your team which role you will assume. Remember that you are all responsible for learning about the biome you are presenting, but your role reflects an area of particular focus for you and your research.

Each team member should choose a website from the list or use a textbook, and find their biome. They should record facts and information about the biome. A factsheet (attached) will be turned in to show that you did your share of the group work.

As individuals, remember your role. You can write down anything useful you think the team will need, but your focus should be on your role (ecologist, geographer, meteorologist).
You must fill out the fact sheet for your biome, and also the biomes of the other groups presenting.

**Questions to answer on your visual aid:**
- What are some general characteristics of your biome?
- What kind of activities could people do in this location?
- What kind of plants and animals can a tourist see there?
- What kind of clothes should the tourist pack? Why?
- What kind of weather should the tourist expect? (Temperature? Likelihood of rainfall?)
- What is the best time of the year to travel there? Why?
- What are the different seasons there?
- What parts of the world could the tourist go to see your biome? (Near the equator? Near/far from the ocean?)

**Grading**

This project will be graded as a 60 point project consisting of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Breakdown</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>25 points</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation</strong></td>
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<td><strong>25 points</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Visual Aid</strong></td>
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<td><strong>5 points</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fact Sheet</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5 points</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Class Vote</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Resources**

- http://www.enchantedlearning.com/biomes/
- http://chalk.richmond.edu/education/projects/webunits/biomes/biomes.html
- http://blueplanetbiomes.org/world_biomes.htm
- http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/exhibits/biomes/index.php
- http://ths.sps.lane.edu/biomes/index1.html
- http://www.cotf.edu/ete/modules/msese/earthsysflr/biomes.html
- http://www.worldbiomes.com/
Fact sheet

**Taiga**
General information:

Common plants:

Common animals:

Climate conditions:

Where it exists:

**Tundra**
General information:

Common plants:

Common animals:

Climate conditions:

Where it exists:
**Tropical rain forest:**
General information:

Common plants:

Common animals:

Climate conditions:

Where it exists:

**Desert**
General information:

Common plants:

Common animals:

Climate conditions:

Where it exists:
**Temperate grassland**
General information:

Common plants:

Common animals:

Climate conditions:

Where it exists:

**Savannah**
General information:

Common plants:

Common animals:

Climate conditions:

Where it exists:
Temperate deciduous forest
General information:

Common plants:

Common animals:

Climate conditions:

Where it exists: