

## The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Human Body Systems

**WebQuest Description:** Students design a newsletter to the human body systems.

**Grade Level:** 6-8

**Curriculum:** Science

**Keywords:** Human body systems, human anatomy, human physiology, Texas middle school science

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### Introduction

#### Introduction

The "Human Body Chamber of Commerce" has asked for your assistance. They require you to inform the various visiting populations of germs, viruses, and organisms about the different systems of the human body. Many biota are moving to or visiting these areas and are not taking the precautions they should while there. Thus, they are changing the conditions for the human host who is not able to adjust. The Chamber hopes that when presented with the information of how awe-inspiring the human body systems are, the visiting organisms will respect the human host enough to leave it alone.

The systems that most are visited are:

The muscular system

The skeletal system

The nervous system

The respiratory system

The digestive system

The integumentary system

The lymphatic system

The excretory system

### Tasks

#### Task

The Chamber wants you to research one of the human systems most visited and produce a newsletter to be included in the Human Voice, a national newspaper. The newsletter must be four pages long and contain information that is accurate, informative, graphical and interesting. The work must be yours, and not simply copied and pasted from different websites or books. Copying such information is called plagiarism and is against the law. The newsletter can be produced using Microsoft Publisher®.

Your newsletter must include but is not limited to:

1. A diagram showing where on the human the system is found.
2. A dictionary of 5 vocabulary terms related to the system.
3. Information about the function of the system and how it helps a human.
4. Accurate information about 4 organs or specialized tissues of the system (include pictures).
5. 10 interesting facts about the system.
6. Known threats against the system.
7. Know ways to keep the system healthy and running properly.
8. An article from the editor entitled "The importance of this body system and how it can be preserved". This will be your opinion of the importance of the selected system but based on the information you have required during your research.

### Process

#### Process

1. Form a group of 4 students and pick which human system you are going to study. Your teacher may pick one for you. Each one of you will need to assume a role of:
- Human system functions and vocabulary researcher- This person finds the functions and associated vocabulary a person needs to understand in order to know how this human system functions.
  - Illustrator and diagram researcher- This person researches the literature and internet resources to find diagrams and illustrations that highlight the human body their group is studying.
  - Layout editor- This person helps to coordinate the information coming in from the researchers and organizes it into a visually pleasing layout to meet the goals of the task set forth by the chamber.
  - Publisher- This is the "every role" position. This person makes the determination to see if more information is needed and the quality of the finished product will meet the demand of the chamber. This person will also aid the researchers if they need help and help steer the group to collaborate on the final product to be sure everything requested from the webquest has been satisfied.

&nbsp;2. You have 5 class periods to finish the project.

3. Fill out Research Summary Page as you search the web– this will include brief information about your finding and all the Internet links you have found based on the research. Use the following links&nbsp;below to help your group compile&nbsp;information and images about the human body system you are making your newsletter about.&nbsp;&nbsp;

<http://kidshealth.org/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/>

[http://www.kidsbiology.com/human\\_biology/index.php](http://www.kidsbiology.com/human_biology/index.php)

<http://www.kidskonnnect.com/subject-index/31-health/337-human-body.html>

<http://yucky.discovery.com/flash/body/>

<http://sciencespot.net/Pages/kdzhealth.html>

[http://www.kidinfo.com/health/human\\_body.html](http://www.kidinfo.com/health/human_body.html)

<http://science.nationalgeographic.com/science/health-and-human-body/human-body/>

<http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jmresources/systems/body.html>

<http://www.kidnetic.com/>

4. You should not limit the information on your newsletter to what is required. You could also include information on the following to name but a few:

How your system works to carry out its function

What other systems it may closely interact with

How it was discovered

Pertinent research being conducted on the system&nbsp;

5. Don't limit yourself just to the web. Look at encyclopedias, magazines, newspaper articles and books.

6. For the article give your opinions based on what you have found out about the system.

7. Produce the newsletter on Microsoft Publisher® or Microsoft Word®, making it as visual as possible. Use your imagination!!

Research Summary Page&nbsp;

Useful websites for diagrams:&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

Vocabulary&nbsp;Terms

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

Functions/Usefulness/Helpfulness&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

Organs and tissues of the system&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

Interesting facts&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

Threats&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

Ways to keep the system healthy&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

Notes&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

&nbsp;

## Evaluation

Evaluation

This is how your work will be evaluated.

&nbsp;

Beginning1

Developing2

Qualified3

Exemplary4

Score

A diagram showing where on the human the system is found.

No diagram present&nbsp;&nbsp;

Diagram is present but inaccurate

Diagram is neat, organized, and accurate

Diagram meet the criteria for qualified and shows a high level of thought and creativity

A&nbsp;dictionary of&nbsp;5 vocabulary terms related to the system.

2 words or less&nbsp;are present&nbsp;or words are not defined

3-5 words are present but not defined

All words are present but definitions are inaccurate or hard to understand

Words are accurately defined in a clear to understand matter

Information about the function of the system and how it&nbsp;helps&nbsp;a&nbsp;human.&nbsp;

No information&nbsp;and &nbsp;helpfulness of the&nbsp;&nbsp;system's function is&nbsp;listed

Functions are listed but no information about the system's helpfulness. Vice versa.

System function and helpfulness are listed but information is limiting

Clear descriptions of the system's functions and helpfulness is listed, accurate, and encompassing

&nbsp;

Accurate information about 4 organs or specialized tissues of the system (include pictures).

No information&nbsp;about the&nbsp;&nbsp;tissues&nbsp;and\or organs&nbsp;is&nbsp;listed

Information is listed but inaccurate

Organs and tissues of the system are listed and accurate information is given

Pictures accompany the accurate and engaging information of organs and tissues

&nbsp;

10 interesting facts about the system.

No facts listed

1-8 facts listed

9 facts listed

10 facts listed

Known threats against the system.

No threats listed

Threats listed but no further information is given

Threats are given as well as information

Information about the threats is well documented and described in good detail

Know ways to keep the system healthy and running properly.

No way(s) listed

Ways are listed but not described

Information is vague and not rich in detail

Accurated detailed ways are listed

&nbsp;

An article from the editor entitled "The importance of this body system and how it can be preserved".

Article&nbsp;has no relation to the topic&nbsp;

Article Information is limited&nbsp;

Article information is&nbsp;&nbsp;present but lacks a solid voice

Article information is obviously present and&nbsp;demonstrates a very convincing voice to the reader&nbsp;

&nbsp;

Grammar and spelling&nbsp;

Group work is&nbsp;consistent with misspelling and gramatical mistakes&nbsp;

Few mistakes in spelling, but grammar is often misused&nbsp;

Few if any mistakes in&nbsp;spelling and grammar

No mistakes in spelling and grammar&nbsp;

&nbsp;

Category and Score					Score
				Total Score	

## Conclusion

Conclusion

&nbsp;

To conclude, I hope you have enjoyed researching and putting together your newsletter. Don't forget what you have learned, as all this can be used for better understanding how the human body systems work.

## Teacher Page

by Justin Cenicerros, Alpine Middle School

Students design a newsletter to the human body systems.

Teacher Introduction

I wanted to help my students become better informed about the human body systems through an interactive lesson. This is based

upon a WebQuest (although I didn't know these processes had a name back then, I just thought it was online research) I sent my environmental science students through a few years back. Only they were looking at putting together a newsletter based on recycling.

#### Learners

This WebQuest is intended for 7th grade science students learning about the interactions, physiology, and complexity of the human body systems.

#### Standards

7.12 Organisms and environments. The student knows that living systems at all levels of organization demonstrate the complementary nature of structure and function. The student is expected to:

(B) identify the main functions of the systems of the human organism, including the circulatory, respiratory, skeletal, muscular, digestive, excretory, integumentary, and nervous systems

(C) recognize levels of organization in plants and animals, including cells, tissues, organs, organ systems, and organisms

#### Teacher Process

Introduce the project to your class. It helps to have your computer projecting the WebQuest for them to see.

I also find that it helps to have a handout of the WebQuest expectations, project information, and rubric to hand to each student. You may also want to have the url address on that handout as well.

When in the computer lab, expect around 3 days for research. encourage the students to play the games associated with the web sites only after they have gathered the information requested for the newsletter they will be creating.

It will take around 2 days for them to compile their information into a newsletter. If they are not familiar with the Microsoft Publisher and Word programs I would advise to add on an additional 2 days and slowly, step by step take them through the basic Publisher and Word software.

#### Resources

What you'll need for this WebQuest:

Computers with internet access for each student

Microsoft Publisher and Word

Library Access

Patience

#### Credits

Justin Cenicerros Hello! My name is Mr. C. I am an 8th grade science teacher in far west Texas. I love moonlit walks on the beach, serenades by guitar, and the letter "M". Permissions We all benefit by being generous with our work. Permission is granted for others to use and modify this WebQuest for educational, non-commercial purposes as long as the original authorship is credited. The modified WebQuest may be shared only under the same conditions.

#### Standards

#### Credits

#### Other