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Stepping Stone Lab 5 Write Up

**Overview**

Although this week’s Zybooks activities were fairly short, this was the longest and most elaborate/nuanced Stepping Stone lab. It incorporated everything we have learned in the class so far like Classes, Main method, variables, loops, arraylists, printing, etc., plus the new material: Accessors, Mutators, and Constructors.

The Zybooks activities were short, but these new concepts are extremely important as they are the backbone of object oriented programming. Up to this point, we have been primarily learning programming logic that could apply to any language and style (like scripting, for example). But with the creation of this more elaborate Recipe class, we are beginning to see the major concepts of OOPLs: Abstraction, Encapsulation, etc.

**Approach**

I really enjoyed this Stepping Stone Lab because I felt that the “template” left a lot of sections for me to complete. Doing these tasks in the actual IDE was a good test of skill in addition to the Zybooks code editors. Netbeans gives instant feedback, and I completed the activity by copying and pasting the template into Netbeans and jumping right in. Completing the sections, fixing errors, and finally getting the program to compile and run is a satisfying process. Since we have gone over pseudo-code, I can see myself repeating the same type of process for other projects: Create a Template, Break the Problem Into Sections, Complete Sections Incrementally. This was the first week where I felt like I was actually doing this in practice.

The only issues I had were, again, with brackets. Figuring out which bracket is misplaced can be a challenge, and it’s funny how removing a single bracket can change a “clean” program with no errors into one with 20 new “stop signs.” The brackets were most difficult in the embedded control structures in the main method.

In the .zip file is the .java file for this Stepping Stone, and the code can also be found on my GitHub page at the following URL:

https://github.com/JoshuaTPierce/IT511\_SteppingStoneLabs/blob/master/src/SteppingStone/SteppingStone5\_Recipe.java