Noyes Project Initial Research

Field Ecology

Over the course of the next several months, you will be conducting a scientific study in the Noyes property. You will spend part of this fall coming up with a research plan; you will conduct your data collection and analysis in the spring during 2nd semester.

Today, you will start this process by working INDIVIDUALLY to brainstorm some scientific questions and do a small amount of research into one of the questions. Here are the specific steps you should follow:

1. From your knowledge of the Noyes property (and CV's campus, which shares many ecological characteristics with the Noyes property), write five good WITRB questions that you could potentially ask about interactions in the property. If you need a reminder on how to write WITRB questions, the format and a brainstorming outline are located here: http://web.csd509j.net/cvhs/bregard/fieldeco/question_project.pdf
    a. It is extremely difficult to work with mammals and birds directly. If you are interested in studying these organisms, your questions should focus on indirect methods of investigation (such as songs for birds, tracks or other signs for large mammals, or burrows / nests for small mammals).
    b. Don't forget about abiotic (non-living) factors in the environment such as sunlight, soil chemistry, wind, and water.
    c. Think about the main topics we will be studying in this class that might apply to the Noyes property: plant ecology, soil properties, soil organisms, and lichens.
    d. It is critical for you to include **good measuring words in** your questions!
2. Pick your favorite question from step 1 above. Then, do a small amount of internet research on each factor – enough to write about one paragraph worth of information for each of the two things you are looking at in your question. You do not need to formally cite your sources, but include a list of websites that you used for your research following each question. Focus on ideas such as:
    a. Where are the factors located in the environment? Where are the factors located in the Noyes property? What type of habitat do the factors require?
    b. If it is an organism, what eats the factor? What does the factor eat?
    c. How does the factor affect plants or animals?
    d. How is the factor affected by non-living aspects of the environment such as rainfall, sunlight, water quality, or air pollution?

When you are done, please e-mail your work as an attachment to dan.bregar@corvallis.k12.or.us. Please use the subject heading "per *X your name* Noyes Initial Research" (for example, if a student named Tracy Jones in 3rd period were to send me the assignment, her subject heading would be "per 3 Tracy Jones Noyes Initial Research").