**Vertebrate Themes: Fish**

**Directions:**

**Planning: 5 points**

1. List 4 to 5 pieces of evidence that support the claim given. Use the chart below.
2. For each piece of evidence, write a reason the evidence supports the claim.

| **Claim:**  Fish are excellent swimmers and successfully survive an entirely aquatic life. Use elephants in your paragraph. | |
| --- | --- |
| **Evidence**  What features do fish possess that support the claim? | **Reasoning**  Connect the evidence to the claim. How do the features allow for survival in water? |
| **Gills, Pectoral fins, anal fins, pelvic fins, dorsal fins, caudal fins, scales and Countershading.** | * The Gills allow the fish to breathe underwater. * Pectoral fins breaks balances and steers. * Pelvic fins breaks balances and steers. * Dorsal fin used for balance. * Anal fin used for balance. * Caudal fin for balance and propulsion for a quick getaway. * Scales: streamline and hydrodynamic, waterproof and for protection * Countershading: makes the organism difficult to see or find like a sort of camouflage |
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**Writing and Presentation of Information 45 points**

You can choose how you present the information:

1. Paragraph (see below)
2. SlideShow- with your own pictures, drawings, or videos (no internet sources)-needs a slide for the claim, 5-8 slides to support and connect ideas, summary slide
   1. No more than 5 bullets per slide
   2. No more than 5 words per bullet
   3. At least one picture/drawing per slide
3. Written song or poem (same criteria as the paragraph)
4. Original drawing that covers all the elements of the paragraph

Whichever medium you choose, you must meet the following criteria:

1. Below the table, use the notes you created in steps 1 and 2 to compose a paragraph combining all 3 elements.
2. Presentation includes:
   1. Topic Sentence: The Claim
   2. Body Sentences: 5-8 statements explaining how the evidence supports the claim. Transition words join statements so that the evidence isn't simply listed, it is explained and directly linked to the topic.
   3. Concluding Sentence: Sum up argument in one sentence
3. Read the Claim-Evidence-Reasoning requirements & Rubric below

| **Planning:** chart completed accurately | | 5 points |
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| **Part of Paragraph** | **Criteria** | **Point Value** |
| **Claim**  *This is your topic statement. You may reuse the one provided or create your own. The topic statement must meet the 3 criteria* | Makes a claim that is Relevant | 1 |
| Makes a claim that is Accurate | 1 |
| Makes a claim that is a Complete sentence that stands alone | 1 |
| **Evidence**  *Scientific evidence that supports the claim. Specific adaptations (features) are described and discussed. The adaptations chosen support the topic statement.* | Provides evidence to support the claim that is Appropriate (Scientific information from notes, textbook, and class discussions only) | 2 points per feature  (10 pts total) |
| Provides evidence to support the claim that is Sufficient (Enough features to support the claim- 4 to 5 specific adaptations) | 1 point per feature (5 points total) |
| **Reasoning**  *A justification that connects the evidence to the claim. It shows how and why the features listed help the animal survive the conditions stated in the claim.* | Explanation provides reasoning that is Clear (it is clear that you know how the feature helps survival and link to the theme) | 5 points |
| Explanation provides reasoning that is Connected (Explains why the evidence is important or why it is relevant to survival) | 5 points |
| Explanation provides reasoning that is Integrated (Links the evidence to the theme) | 5 points |
| **Grammar:** Grammatical errors are limited and do not infer with message and flow | | 5 points |
| **Spelling:** Spelling errors are limited and do not infer with message and flow | | 5 points |
| **Formatting:** Double spaced, 12 point font, slideshow- meet bullet requirements | | 2 points |

Fish are excellent swimmers and successfully survive an entirely aquatic life. The fish has many unique characteristics like Gills, Pectoral fins, anal fins, pelvic fins, dorsal fins, caudal fins, scales and countershading. These features give the fish an advantage and a way to survive. The Gills provide waterproof and water resistant protection when swimming. Fishes are also very good at adapting to their surroundings with a streamlined body shape giving them a coat for water resistance. Fish are very small but there is one thing that helps them blend into their surroundings, countershading. Countershading gives the fish a sort of camouflage technique where the two sides of it are a lighter and darker color. These help the fish survive to blend in with their surroundings. A fish needs to move and fins do that and more. There are multiple types of fins and their different features. Fish use their Pectoral and Pelvic fins for break balances and steering and then the Dorsal and Anal fins are used for balance. One the back of the fish the caudal fin gives balance and propulsion for a quick getaway to maneuver. With these features, the fish proves to be a very excellent swimmer and survives a great aquatic lifetime.