

Natureglo's Art & Science eCenter: How to set up a Student Journal Page

Dear Students and Parents,

These journal guidelines can be used for all of Natureglo's Art & Science eCenter's Zoology, Botany, Biology and MathArt class students. Keeping a journal and a blog is a key experience for students. It is an important skill as a naturalist, scientist, biologist and mathematician. Scientists worldwide have kept detailed journals for centuries. This is a basic skill to acquire and build on over the years. I have kept many journals throughout my life. Below are three sets of guidelines for setting up a journal page according to maturity/ability level beginning with the simplest format and concluding with the most detailed format.

NOTE: Please abbreviate information in bullet format and reword information so you're not plagiarizing. Give credit to direct quotes and or photographs not your own. All of the photographs I use are either my own or ones I use from Creative Commons, Wikipedia or Wikimedia Commons contributors. Check each photo used to be sure it's not copyrighted. This is why I typically pull photos from Wikipedia and Wikimedia Commons, because most photos are Creative Commons and therefore the photographer has given permission for freedom of use. But, I still check the photograph to be sure it's labeled as Creative Commons before putting in my journal pages, blogs or PowerPoints.

Students can either use a blank page in their journal or use the provided journal page template as a download labeled, **"Blank Journal Page Entry Template"**. I've also provided a **"Sample Mandarinfish Journal Page"** as a download in addition to the samples below. Students wanting to just start from scratch using a blank sheet of paper in their journal, can use the Mandarinfish Journal page entry as an example and guide in addition to the guidelines below. It's suggested to not rip journal pages out of journals but keep your journal pages intact. If you're printing out the journal templates, you can put holes in the left side of the paper and add it to a 3-ring binder or portfolio folder.

Please use both the written guidelines and the journal page sample(s) to guide your journal entry experience.

Journal Materials:

- Blank journal page or printout of the journal page handout
- Sharp pencil or mechanical pencil with eraser
- Colored pencils, crayons, paint or other coloring medium of choice
- Field guide or web page with species photo for sketching

Basic Journal Entry (Basic Information)

1. Put as the title a ***specific species*** name in English and Latin or the MathArt topic at the top of the journal page. Dedicate one journal entry to one specific species of plant or animal and one MathArt topic/concept per journal entry. Put your name and date at the top.
2. Using a pencil with an eraser, make a sketch of your species or MathArt concept or topic.
3. Color your drawing with life-like colors or using colors as close to the real life as possible.
4. Write basic facts:

Plants or Animals

- (a). **General description** (size, color; plants: deciduous, evergreen or non-vascular such as moss or ferns)
- (b). **Map Range** - where it lives
- (c). **Habitat**
- (d). **Diet (for animals) or Nutritional needs (for plants)**

Intermediate Journal Entry (Moderately Detailed)

1. Include steps 1 – 4 as in the Basic Journal Entry.
2. Write additional facts on your journal page for a plant species:
 - **Ecological information** (it's importance to the environment, animals and people; at least three points)
 - **Native uses** (how was this plant used for either food or medicine)
 - **Other interesting facts** - as many as you have room for on one page
3. Write additional facts on your journal page for an animal species:
 - **Breeding information**
 - **Habits** (include at least two)
 - **Other interesting facts** - as many as you have room for on one page

Advanced Journal Entry

(Very Detailed including some additional sketches)

Plants

- 1. Include Steps 1 – 3 as for basic journal entry and intermediate facts from #2 (plants)**
- 2. Write Additional details into your journal page: Plants**
 - **Abundance**
 - **Poisonous look-alikes**
 - **Survival values (how used in survival if any)**
 - **Edible parts**
 - **Planting - including sunlight and nutritional needs**
- 3. Make additional sketches to include plant or tree leaves, flowers, bark, fruit and branches.**

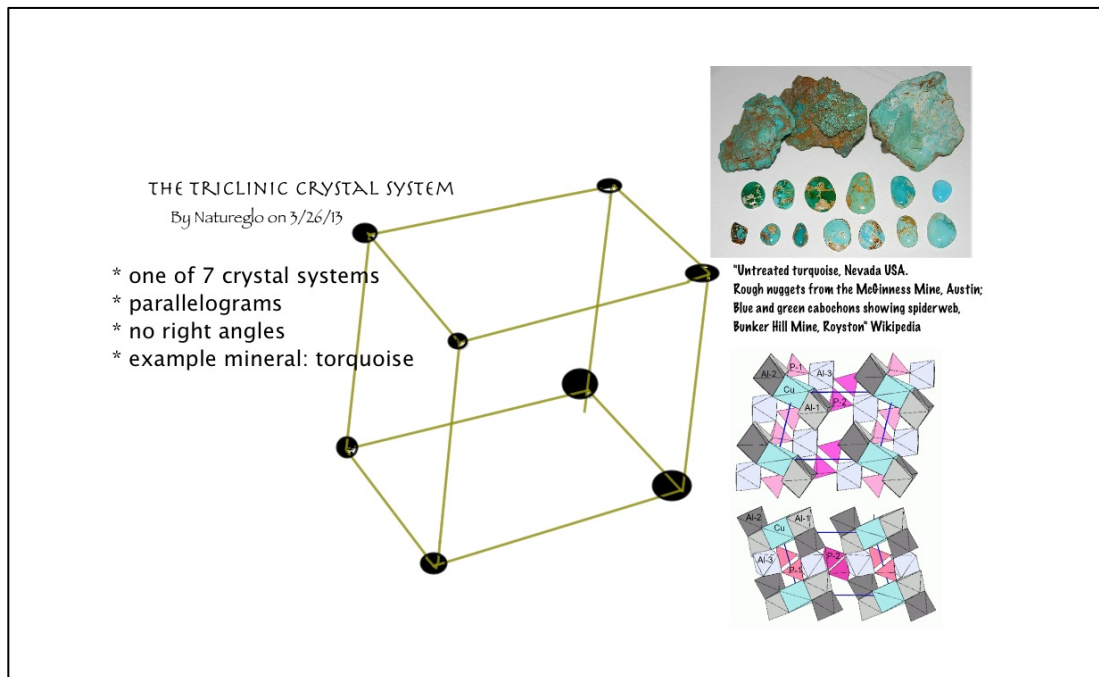
Animals

- 1. Include basic steps 1-3, plus intermediate facts #3 (animals)**
- 2. Write additional details into your journal page below:**
 - **Economic importance (how assist people and environment)**
 - **Posture**
 - **Weight distribution**
 - **Dominant senses**
 - **Musculature (draw what you think the animal's muscles look like)**
 - **Predators, prey (what eats it, what it eats)**
 - **Animal tracks & signs (sketch and describe tracks, scat, or other signs)**

Natureglo's Journal Samples

Notice these samples are without use of a template and therefore more of a “free-style”. Students may want the freedom to set up and design the layout of their work on a blank journal page. If you decide to use the template, print it out, hole-punch it and put in a three-ring binder or a folder.

A Basic MathArt Journal Page Entry

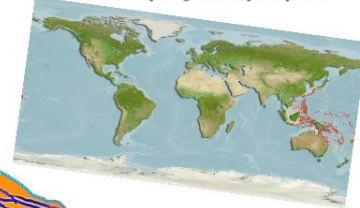
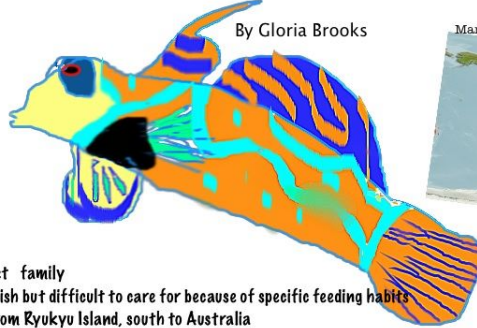


Intermediate Marine Biology Journal Entry

The Mandarinfish or Mandarin Dragonet

By Gloria Brooks

Mandarinfish map range from AquaMaps.com



- * member of dragonet family
- * popular aquarium fish but difficult to care for because of specific feeding habits
- * native to Pacific from Ryukyu Island, south to Australia
- * common name, Mandarinfish, from colorfulness like Imperial Chinese mandarin
- * one of two animals with blue coloring because of cellular pigment
- * reef dwellers
- * prefer sheltered lagoons & inshore reefs
- * diet - small crustaceans & other invertebrates: small gastropods, fish eggs

Advanced Trees Journal Entry

- * slow growing evergreen shrubs
- * resemble oranges but size of olive
- * 2.5 to 4.5 meters (8 to 15 ft) tall
- * dense branches, sometimes thorned
- * cultivated in Philippines, Japan, Taiwan and Southeast Asia, Middleeast, Europe, and Southern US (Florida, Arkansas, Louisiana)
- * eaten raw; rind sweet, juicy center sour
- * used for candying and jam preserves
- * kumquat brine made with fruit preserved in salt and used for sore throat - a few salted fruits mixed in with salts and water and consumed



Kumquat flower



Citrus Japonica

THE KUMQUAT BY NATUREGLO ON MARCH 28, 2013



- * small fruit-bearing trees
- * in order sapindales, family rutaceae, genus: citrus
- * native to south Asia and Asia-Pacific