

Task Background	
Domain & Area: Science - Life Science	
<p>MN Standard Adult High School Diploma Social Studies Competencies</p> <p>Area 2: Life Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the concept of evolution and extinction. • Explain how humans impact natural systems. 	
<p>Task Description: The purpose of this task is to provide you an opportunity to demonstrate competency in a fundamental concept in life science: evolution and extinction and human impacts on natural systems. In this task, you will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research a rare Minnesota species with a status at least partially due to human causes • identify adaptations the species has made to its environment in terms of the process of natural selection • correlate human activity to the species' status (endangered, threatened, or special concern) • predict how likely the species is to become extinct in your lifetime, based on data about the conditions and the species' ability to adapt. <p>Follow the directions for each activity carefully. The expectation is that you will complete the activities of this task mostly on your own. You may use resources such as dictionaries and research online as needed to complete the activities. Your teacher can provide feedback for revisions of your work as needed.</p>	
Activities	
<p>Title: Research a Species</p>	<p>Materials: To complete this activity, you will need to go to the link below and research a species native to Minnesota that is now classified as endangered, threatened, and/or special concern because of human activity. You will also need the handouts “<i>Research a Species</i>” and “<i>Writing an Essay</i>” to guide you in collecting information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rare Species Guide: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/index.html
<p>Title: Write an Essay</p>	<p>Materials: To complete this activity, you will need the “<i>Writing an Essay</i>” and “<i>Life Science Task Rubric</i>” handouts to guide the writing of your essay. Your essay will be about how the</p>

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	species you chose adapted to its Minnesota environment through the process of evolution and how humans have ultimately interrupted the natural process of adaptation and reduced its numbers.	
Checklist		
Activities	Date	Teacher Initials
1. Research a Species a. Choose a species b. Complete the "Writing an Essay" table with details you collect from the MN DNR website	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
2. Write an Essay a. Write a first draft b. Receive feedback on the first draft c. Write a final draft	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>