Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Biology 2 Extra Credit Assignment (10 pts)

Web based research on species ecological niche and evolution

**Instructions:** For this assignment you are going to choose one animal species and one plant species of your choice. I encourage you to choose a local plant and animal species so that you will have a greater understanding of at least two species that live around you. The idea of this assignment is to determine the ecological niche of the plant and animal species you selected. Use the internet to research your species and answer the following using complete sentences. BE SURE TO PROVIDE CITATIONS FOR YOUR SOURCES!

**Animal species**

**Provide the entire taxonomy for your animal species.**

Domain:

Kingdom:

Phylum:

Class:

Order:

Family:

Genus:

Species**:**

**What is the historic range of this species (its range prior to any expansion facilitated by human colonization – raccoons did not always live in the city)? What type of habitat does this species live in?**

**What are some of the challenges that your animal species must encounter when living in the habitat in which it lives? Think about the climate associated with the habitat where your animal lives and the other organisms that also live in the habitat.**

**Describe the appearance of the animal you selected. Be specific. What color is it? Does it have a pattern?**

**How does the animal’s appearance relate to the environment in which it lives? How does its appearance help it cope with the environmental conditions associated with the habitat in which it lives? What adaptations does you animal have to help it survive?**

**Is you species nocturnal or diurnal? Where does it sleep?**

**What does your animal species eat? Does anything prey upon your animal species? Does you animal species compete with any other species for resources?**

**What characteristics do you animal possess that help it acquire food and also avoid becoming food? Does your species have any characteristics that help it defend itself?**

**Is your species solitary or does it live in groups? If it lives in a group, what are the advantages and disadvantages of group living?**

**Plant species**

**Provide the entire taxonomy for your plant species.**

Domain:

Kingdom:

Phylum:

Class:

Order:

Family:

Genus:

Species**:**

**Describe your plant species. Is it a monocot or dicot? Monecious or dieoecous? Alternate or opposite? Pinnate or Palmate?**

**What is the historic range of this species (its range prior to any expansion facilitated by human colonization? What type of habitat is this plant a part of (desert, oak woodland, etc...)?**

**What are some of the adaptations that your plant species has to help it cope with the challenges of the environment? Think about the temperatures and rainfall associated with the habitat where your animal lives.**

**Does your plant have a symbiotic relationship with any pollinators? If so, which species pollinate you plant?**

**Does you plant produce a fruit? If so, what king of fruit? What animals eat the plants fruit? How is the fruit adapted for dispersal?**