**Human Impact on Food Chains and Webs Assignment**

Humans have the ability to have a great impact on ecosystems.  Living organisms are a significant portion of any ecosystem, therefore any activity that affects an ecosystem is also likely to affect the organisms within that ecosystem.  If organisms are affected the food chains  webs that the organisms are a part of will also feel the effects.

In the following assignment you will brainstorm to create a list of number of human activities that interfere with ecosystems.  You will then research and present information on the affects one of these activities has on the organisms in a food chain or web.

**Procedure:**

With a partner or on your own create a list of human activities that may interfere with the organisms in an ecosystem.  Keep in mind that organisms are anything living so you can include activities that affect plants either directly or indirectly.

You will share your list with the rest of the class.

Using your list and the list of activities shared by other students, choose one of the activities that you would like to research.

Research this activity and record information about the following:

**1. An explanation of the human activity**.  (What is the activity? Why is it done? Is it necessary?)

**2. How does this activity interfere with food chains and webs?**  (Be sure to mention initial and long-term effects.  Remember that if one organism in a food chain is affected others will likely be affected as well.  If other organisms are not mentioned, you may need to do further research to find out what types of organisms feed on or are feed on by the initial organism affected.)

**3. What can be done to reduce the impact of this activity?** Your answer to this question will include preventative measures and/or alternatives to the human activity.

**Research Requirements:**

* You must provide a bibliography for the sources of information you use.
* You must use a minimum of four different resources to gather your information.
* Your sources must be from 1993 or later.
* Present all of the information for part i) - iii) from above for in a visual project.
* Your project may take the form of a web page, an informational pamphlet, story book or any other creative method you may think of.
* In addition to the information your final product must be colorful and creative.  Use picture to add to the information you are presenting.
* Your final product should be appealing to the eye so that your audience wants to learn more about it.
* Be prepared to work on this project on your own time!

**Evaluation:**

Information Presented: [25 marks]

* An explanation of the human activity /5
* A description of how this activity interferes with food chains and webs /10
* Suggestions to reduce the impact of this activity /7
* Mechanics for information presented (ie. spelling, grammar, sentence structure, prettiness)/3