Show Us Your Mussels
Student Checklist

Purpose:

Before posting your project online, check it against this list to make sure it has all the needed elements and to make sure that your information is correct.

☐ Link to the voting site
  o Does your project include a message telling people to go and vote for your school?
  o Does your project include the link to the voting site?

☐ Conservation message and call to action
  o Does your campaign talk about why native mussels are important?
  o Does your campaign encourage community members to take action that will address the problem? For example does your campaign focus on one of the following:
    ▪ Pet waste
    ▪ Boating and fishing practices

☐ Correct images
  o Are the pictures you have of freshwater mussels? Not sure? See the attached “What Native vs. Non-Native Mussels Look Like” if you need help.

☐ Respect copyright laws
  o Have you cited where the images you use come from?
  o Have you cited where the information you used come from?
  o Have you quoted authors where appropriate?

☐ Quality of the product
  o Did you use spell checker?
  o Does it look professional?
  o Did you think about the audience and what message would engage them?

☐ Professionalism
  o Does your work show that you respect and protect the following stakeholders:
    ▪ your audience?
    ▪ the public in general?
    ▪ your school?
    ▪ the Minnesota Zoo?

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Privacy
  - Did you use names and pictures only of people whose permission you had asked for?
  - Did you use only first names and not last names of students in your group?
  - Did you follow all your school’s internet and social media guidelines?

Other
  - What other considerations has your teacher asked you to include?
What Native vs. Non-Native Mussels Look Like

Correct examples of Native Freshwater Mussels:

- Minnesotan Pondmussel (Ligumia subrostrata)
- Lake floater (Pyganodon lacustris)
- Mucket (Actinonaias ligamentina)

Incorrect Examples (Not Native Freshwater Mussels):

- Zebra Mussel (Dreissena polymorpha)
- Zebra Mussel cluster (with Nickel to scale)
- Marine Clam

[Images of mussels and clams]
The Difference between Native Mussels and Zebra Mussels

Size, presentation, and texture are on the students' side when distinguishing Native Minnesotan Mussels from the zebra mussel. Shown below is a cluster of Zebra Mussels attached to a local Minnesotan mussels, and here, along with additional pictures of Zebra Mussels observe three distinct differences between Local Mussels and Zebra Mussels.

1. Size: Zebra mussels are significantly smaller than their local counterparts.

2. Presentation: as the name suggests, Zebra Mussels possess a zebra like stripe-pattern appearance, whilst local mussels are often darker with duller patterns.

3. Texture: Zebra Mussels are sharp and have a triangular D-shape, whilst local mussels are smooth and have an ovular shape.

Often distinguishing between marine and freshwater mussels can be hard, although marine clams present a little more obvious of a difference. To prevent students from posting pictures of marine species, make sure they either search using the keyword *freshwater* or (preferably) with the keywords *native/local Minnesota mussels*. 

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