



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**
 - Does your project include a message telling people to go and vote for your school?
 - Does your project include the link to the voting site?

- Conservation message and call to action**
 - Does your campaign talk about why native mussels are important?
 - 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**
 - 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**
 - Have you cited where the images you use come from?
 - Have you cited where the information you used come from?
 - Have you quoted authors where appropriate?

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

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



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?

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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*)



Group of Native Minnesotan Mussels



Incorrect Examples (Not Native Freshwater Mussels):

Zebra Mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*)



Zebra Mussel cluster (with Nickel to scale)



Marine Clam



Zebra Mussel cluster





MINNESOTA ZOO

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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