

Biology

Introductory task for year 12 Biology

Complete some research into an area in Biology that interests YOU. Download and review the specification content for your course. You will present (3-5mins) on this within the first two weeks of the course using the following headings:

1. Outline/summary of the topic and why you chose it.
2. What specifically do you find interesting about this topic.
3. The impact of this area of Biology on the world today.
4. Where do you think this area may be relevant (make links) in the two year course of Advanced level Biology?

Suggested reading attached.

Optional Transition booklet attached complete with answers.

A Suggested Reading List for A Level Biologists

Magazines, Newspapers and journals

New Scientist

Scientific American

Nature

Science

Biological Sciences Review

British Medical Journal

Any scientific articles in newspapers (eg the Guardian on Wednesday)

Websites

- <http://www.ibiblio.org/virtualcell/index.htm> – An interactive cell biology site
- <http://www.accessexcellence.org/RC/VL/GG> – A web site showing illustrations of many processes of biotechnology
- <http://www.uq.oz.au/nanoworld> – Visit the world of electron-microscopy
- <http://www.dnai.org/a/index.html> – Explore the genetic code
- <http://nobelprize.org> – Details of the history of the best scientific discoveries
- <http://nature.com> – The site of the scientific journal
- <http://royalsociety.org> – Podcasts, news and interviews with scientists about recent scientific developments
- <http://www.nhm.ac.uk> – The London Natural History Museum's website with lots of interesting educational material
- <http://www.bmj.com> – The website of the British Medical Journal
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science_and_environment - The BBC news page for Science and the Environment

Books

Research these on Amazon and select a few to read:

Richard Dawkins:

The Selfish Gene

The Blind Watchmaker.

Unweaving the Rainbow

Climbing Mount Improbable

The Ancestor's Tale

Steve Jones:

Y: The Descent of Men

[In the Blood: God, Genes and Destiny](#)

[Almost Like a Whale: The 'Origin of Species' Updated](#)

The Language of the genes

Matt Ridley

[Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters](#)

[The Red Queen: Sex and the Evolution of Human Nature](#)

The Language of Genes

Francis Crick: Discoverer of the Genetic Code

Nature Via Nurture: Genes, Experience and What Makes Us Human

James Watson:

DNA: The Secret of Life

The Double Helix: Personal Account of the Discovery of the Structure of DNA

Lewis Thomas:

The Lives of a Cell: Notes of a Biology Watcher.

The Medusa and the Snail: More Notes of a Biology Watcher
Barry Gibb: The Rough Guide to the Brain (Rough Guides Reference Titles)

Charles Darwin: The origin of species

Armand Marie Leroi: Mutants: On the Form, Varieties and Errors of the Human Body

David S. Goodsell: The Machinery of Life

Ernst Mayr: This Is Biology: The Science of the Living World

George C. Williams: Plan and Purpose in Nature

Steve Pinker: The Language Instinct

Edward O Wilson: The Diversity of Life

Primo Levi: The Periodic Table

Richard Leaky: The Origin of Humankind

Bill Bryson: A Short History of Nearly Everything

