

Ghana Climate Projects

Directions: Read the descriptions of the projects given below and think about how they match your group members' talents and interests. Make sure you read about the project requirements, audience, and due dates. Your group may decide to work on one project together, or to divide into sub-groups and do more than one project. The quality of the notes on your graphic organizers is important for your project—make sure each of you completes your research carefully. Use the *Evaluation of Ghana Project* to help you complete the assignment successfully. It lists the expectations and requirements for superior projects and will be used to evaluate your final product.

Project Descriptions

Make a diorama, a three-dimensional form of art with a painted background and figures placed in a descriptive scene in the foreground. Dioramas are usually done in miniature, so the diorama(s) you make should be the size of shoeboxes. Make two (or more) that show the effects of the rainy season and the dry season on the plants, animals, and people of Ghana. The dioramas will be displayed and explained at the project showcase at the end of the unit.

Write and present a series of skits about the rainy season and the dry season in Ghana. The skits can be mimed or contain dialogue. Each skit should be briefly introduced to explain the content and methodology (how you do what you do). Skits can use props and scenery as necessary. Skits can be formally scripted (written and turned in for evaluation) or informally scripted (evaluated at the time of the performance by what is seen and heard). All skits will be performed at the project showcase.

Write and illustrate a magazine article about life in Ghana. The article should be written in the style of a geographic or nature magazine for kids. It should be aimed at an audience of 8- to 11-year-olds. The article must contain pictures, photos with captions, and text. It will be copied for distribution at the project showcase.

Create a Hyperstudio or PowerPoint presentation about the dry season and rainy season in Ghana, using pictures from the *Water in Africa* website: www.peacecorps.gov/wws/educators/enrichment/africa/index.html. The presentation should be five to seven minutes long, and contain a minimum of eight photos. The script included in the presentation should contain original material, not merely the website picture captions (although excerpts from the captions could be used and cited as sources). The script should be directed at students who are unfamiliar with Ghana and the website materials, and it should include a brief introduction telling students what they will be learning, facts about Ghana, as necessary, and a brief conclusion summarizing the presentation.

Project Requirements, Audience, and Due Dates

All projects must include

- Four features of the dry season and four features of the rainy season, as they affect people, plants and animals, and the environment. (All three categories must be included.)
- The definition of climate. At least two of the five features of climate must be mentioned in the descriptions of the rainy season and the dry season.
- An example of water conservation.

The project showcase audience will include other classes in the school, and parents or other adults from the school community. Each group is responsible for making notes on the graphic organizers and for its project(s) at the time of the project showcase.