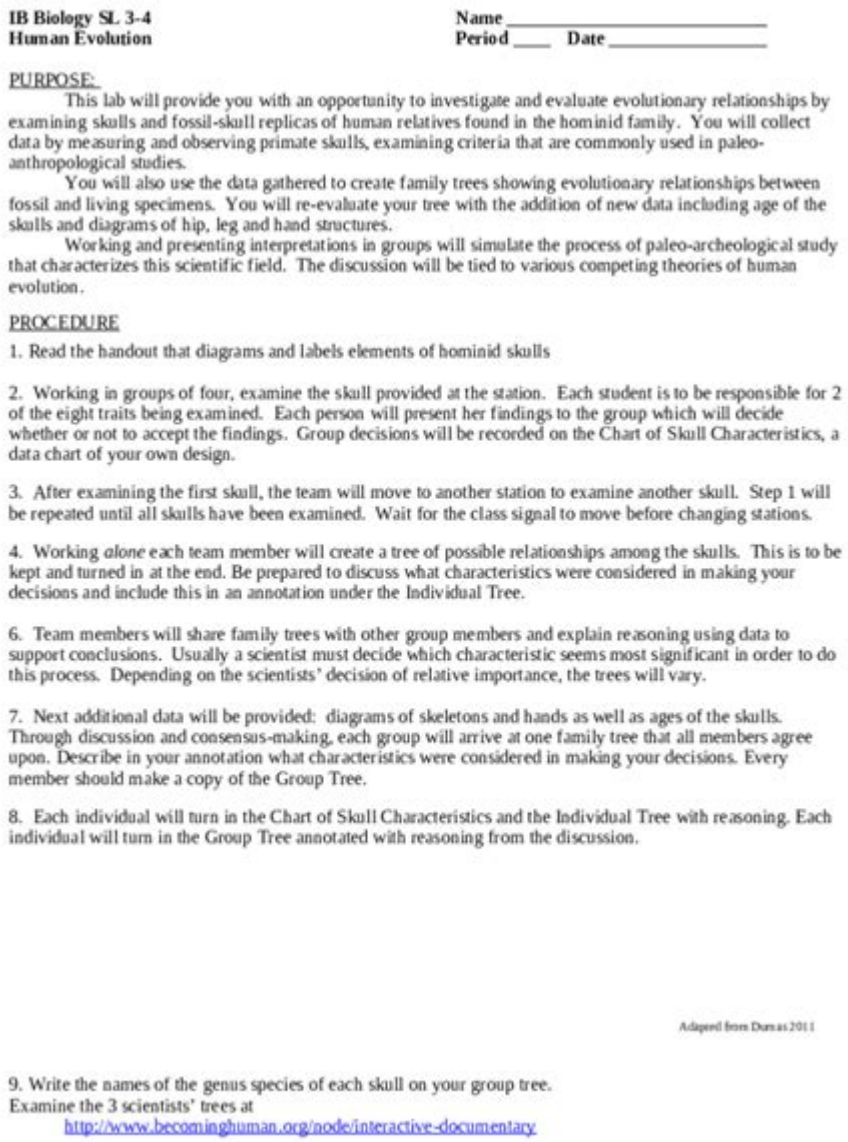
Ib Biology Ia Ideas Human Physiology



IB Biology SL 3-4 **Name** _____
Human Evolution **Period** ____ **Date** _____

PURPOSE:

This lab will provide you with an opportunity to investigate and evaluate evolutionary relationships by examining skulls and fossil-skull replicas of human relatives found in the hominid family. You will collect data by measuring and observing primate skulls, examining criteria that are commonly used in paleo-anthropological studies.

You will also use the data gathered to create family trees showing evolutionary relationships between fossil and living specimens. You will re-evaluate your tree with the addition of new data including age of the skulls and diagrams of hip, leg and hand structures.

Working and presenting interpretations in groups will simulate the process of paleo-archeological study that characterizes this scientific field. The discussion will be tied to various competing theories of human evolution.

PROCEDURE

1. Read the handout that diagrams and labels elements of hominid skulls

2. Working in groups of four, examine the skull provided at the station. Each student is to be responsible for 2 of the eight traits being examined. Each person will present her findings to the group which will decide whether or not to accept the findings. Group decisions will be recorded on the Chart of Skull Characteristics, a data chart of your own design.

3. After examining the first skull, the team will move to another station to examine another skull. Step 1 will be repeated until all skulls have been examined. Wait for the class signal to move before changing stations.

4. Working *alone* each team member will create a tree of possible relationships among the skulls. This is to be kept and turned in at the end. Be prepared to discuss what characteristics were considered in making your decisions and include this in an annotation under the Individual Tree.

6. Team members will share family trees with other group members and explain reasoning using data to support conclusions. Usually a scientist must decide which characteristic seems most significant in order to do this process. Depending on the scientists' decision of relative importance, the trees will vary.

7. Next additional data will be provided: diagrams of skeletons and hands as well as ages of the skulls. Through discussion and consensus-making, each group will arrive at one family tree that all members agree upon. Describe in your annotation what characteristics were considered in making your decisions. Every member should make a copy of the Group Tree.

8. Each individual will turn in the Chart of Skull Characteristics and the Individual Tree with reasoning. Each individual will turn in the Group Tree annotated with reasoning from the discussion.

Adapted from Dumas 2011

9. Write the names of the genus species of each skull on your group tree.
Examine the 3 scientists' trees at
http://www.becominghuman.org/node/interactive-documentary

IB Biology IA Ideas Human Physiology are essential for students looking to explore the human body and its functions in depth. The Internal Assessment (IA) is a crucial part of the IB Biology curriculum, allowing students to conduct an independent investigation into a topic of interest. Human physiology, the study of the functions and mechanisms in a human body, offers a plethora of opportunities for experimentation and exploration. This article will provide a comprehensive guide to potential IA topics, methodologies, data analysis ideas, and ethical considerations surrounding human physiology research.

Understanding Human Physiology for IA

Human physiology encompasses various systems within the body, including the cardiovascular,

respiratory, muscular, and nervous systems. Each of these systems presents unique opportunities for investigation. Here are some key areas you may want to consider for your IA:

1. Cardiovascular System

The cardiovascular system is responsible for transporting nutrients, oxygen, and hormones to cells throughout the body and removing waste products. Here are some potential IA ideas related to this system:

- Effect of Exercise on Heart Rate: Investigate how different types of exercise (aerobic vs. anaerobic) affect heart rate recovery time. You can measure heart rate before, during, and after exercise to analyze physiological responses.

- Blood Pressure and Stress: Explore the relationship between mental stress (e.g., a timed math test) and blood pressure changes. Measuring blood pressure before and after a stress-inducing task can provide valuable data.

- Impact of Caffeine on Heart Rate: Examine how caffeine consumption affects heart rate in individuals. This could involve measuring resting heart rates before and after caffeine intake.

2. Respiratory System

The respiratory system is vital for gas exchange and maintaining homeostasis. Here are some ideas for investigation:

- Lung Capacity and Physical Fitness: Measure the lung capacity of individuals with different fitness levels using a spirometer. Assess how physical activity influences lung volume.

- Effect of Altitude on Breathing Rate: Research how different altitudes impact breathing rates. Conduct experiments at various altitudes (if possible) or simulate conditions using a hypoxia chamber.

- Impact of Smoking on Respiratory Function: Investigate how smoking affects lung function over time. This could include comparing lung capacity and function in smokers versus non-smokers.

3. Muscular System

The muscular system is essential for movement and stability. Potential IA topics could include:

- Effect of Different Types of Stretching on Muscle Flexibility: Compare static stretching versus dynamic stretching to see which is more effective in improving flexibility in athletes.

- Muscle Fatigue and Recovery: Analyze how different recovery techniques (e.g., hydration, nutrition) influence muscle recovery after exercise-induced fatigue.

- Impact of Resistance Training on Muscle Strength: Investigate how different resistance training regimens affect muscle strength in individuals over a set period.

4. Nervous System

The nervous system controls and coordinates all the body’s functions. Here are some ideas:

- Reaction Time and Age: Study how reaction times differ across various age groups. You can design a simple experiment using a ruler drop test to measure response times.

- Effect of Music on Cognitive Function: Investigate whether listening to music while studying influences memory retention and concentration.

- Impact of Sleep on Cognitive Performance: Examine how different amounts of sleep affect memory retention or problem-solving skills. This could involve comparing test scores after varying sleep durations.

Methodologies for Investigation

Once you've selected a topic, you'll need to develop a methodology for your investigation. Here are some essential considerations:

1. Research Design

- Type of Study: Decide whether your study will be experimental, observational, or correlational. An experimental design is often the most straightforward for IA, as it allows you to manipulate an independent variable and observe its effect on a dependent variable.

- Control Variables: Identify and control for variables that could affect your results. For instance, when studying heart rate, factors such as age, fitness level, and hydration status should be standardized.

2. Data Collection Techniques

- Quantitative Methods: Use objective measurements such as heart rate monitors, spirometers, or blood pressure cuffs to gather data.

- Qualitative Methods: Consider incorporating surveys or interviews to gain insights into subjective experiences related to your topic.

3. Sample Size and Selection

- Participants: Define your target population and ensure you have a sufficient sample size to yield statistically significant results. Random sampling can help reduce bias.

- Ethical Considerations: Obtain informed consent from participants, ensuring they are aware of the research purpose and any potential risks.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Data analysis is crucial for drawing meaningful conclusions from your research. Here are some strategies:

1. Statistical Analysis

- Descriptive Statistics: Summarize your data using measures such as mean, median, mode, and standard deviation.

- Inferential Statistics: Use statistical tests (e.g., t-tests, ANOVA) to determine if your results are statistically significant.

2. Graphical Representation

- Charts and Graphs: Present your findings visually using bar graphs, line graphs, or scatter plots. This can help clarify trends and relationships in your data.

Ethical Considerations

When conducting research involving human physiology, it is vital to adhere to ethical guidelines. Here are some key considerations:

- Informed Consent: Participants should understand the purpose of the study, procedures involved, and any potential risks before agreeing to participate.

- Confidentiality: Ensure that personal data is kept confidential and used solely for research purposes.

- Right to Withdraw: Participants should be informed that they can withdraw from the study at any point without consequence.

Conclusion

Exploring IB Biology IA Ideas Human Physiology can open up a world of fascinating investigations into

how the human body works. From the cardiovascular system to the nervous system, each area offers unique opportunities for experimentation and learning. By carefully selecting a research topic, designing a robust methodology, and adhering to ethical standards, you can produce valuable insights that enhance your understanding of human physiology. Remember to analyze your data thoroughly and present your findings clearly to make the most of your IA experience. With creativity and curiosity, your IA can be both educational and impactful.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some effective IB Biology IA ideas related to human physiology?

Some effective ideas include investigating the effects of exercise on heart rate, analyzing the impact of diet on blood glucose levels, or examining the relationship between stress and cortisol levels.

How can I investigate the effect of temperature on enzyme activity in human physiology for my IA?

You can measure the rate of a reaction, such as the breakdown of starch by amylase, at different temperatures and analyze how this affects enzyme activity.

What ethical considerations should I keep in mind for human physiology IA experiments?

Ensure informed consent, maintain participant confidentiality, and minimize any potential risks or discomfort to participants during your experiments.

Can I use surveys as a method for my IA in human physiology?

Yes, surveys can be a useful method, especially for gathering data on lifestyle habits, stress levels, or dietary patterns and their effects on physiological parameters.

What are some variables I can manipulate in a human physiology IA experiment?

Variables can include exercise intensity, type of food consumed, hydration levels, or sleep duration, all of which can affect physiological responses.

How can I analyze the data collected from my human physiology IA?

Use statistical methods such as mean, median, standard deviation, and t-tests to analyze your data, and consider using graphs to visually represent your findings.

What is a good way to structure my IA report on human

physiology?

A good structure includes an introduction with background research, a clear hypothesis, a detailed methodology, results with analysis, and a discussion with conclusions and potential improvements.

How can I ensure my IA experiment is replicable?

Provide detailed methodology, use standardized procedures, and document all materials and steps clearly so that others can repeat your experiment accurately.

What are common mistakes to avoid when conducting a human physiology IA?

Common mistakes include not controlling variables properly, failing to collect enough data, or not providing sufficient background research in the introduction.

Is it permissible to use human subjects in my IA experiments?

Yes, you can use human subjects, but you must adhere to ethical guidelines and obtain necessary approvals, especially when conducting experiments that involve physical activity or health assessments.

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