

Name: _____

Date:_____

The Living Environment

Ms. Kenny/ Mr. Bagnuolo

Species Wanted

Introduction: A niche is the role that a species plays in an ecosystem. A species' niche includes its habitat, relationships with other species, and its method of obtaining nutrition. Just as employees in hospitals have specific jobs (doctors, nurses, technicians, cashiers in the gift shop, custodians, etc) organisms too play specific roles in ecosystems.

Directions: Read the sample “Help Wanted” ad from a local newspaper below.

Help Wanted: Butcher – BJ'S Paramus, New Jersey

Butchers are responsible for cutting and preparing fresh and processed meat. Responsibilities may also include receiving shipments, handling special requests, and complying with sanitation and safety standards. Strong interpersonal skills and prior meat cutting experience required. Position also requires day, evening and weekend availability. Note: This position requires working in refrigerated conditions.

Imagine that you are an organism in an ecosystem that is missing one of its important species. Use the job ad above as a model to help you write your own “want ad” for a species to fill a niche in an ecosystem of your choice. Your ad should include:

- A description of the niche that is to be filled. This will include the habitat, relationships with other organisms, and the role that this organism will play in the ecosystem.
- A description of the type of organism that would fill this niche.

For extra credit write a Species Wanted for an entire ecosystem. Include all major trophic levels and niches necessary for organisms to survive.

Write your *Species Wanted* ad in the space provided below.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Date: _____
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