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| Category | Beginning 1 | Developing 2 | Very Good 3 | Exemplary 4 |
| Science Journal | All activities:  -matching  -reflection questions  -solid/gas/  liquid wksht  -determining what pictures require water and from were  -definitions  -drawing of water cycle  Are incomplete or reflect minimum effort. | All activities:  -matching  -reflection questions  -solid/gas/  liquid wksht  -determining what pictures require water and from were  -definitions  -drawing of water cycle  Are complete but show room for further explanation or  Enhancement. | All activities:  -matching  -reflection questions  -solid/gas/  liquid wksht  -determining what pictures require water and from were  -definitions  -drawing of water cycle  Are complete and reflect effort and detail. | All activities:  -matching  -reflection questions  -solid/gas/  liquid wksht  -determining what pictures require water and from were  -definitions  -drawing of water cycle  Are complete and go beyond expectations in detail and effort. |
| Research Project/ Story Entry | Lack of detail and reflection beyond the obvious. Does not appear to have taken advantage of resources. Story not written in first person and lacks any creativity. | Some detail provided and has utilized the available resources. Story may or may not be written in first person but does not show much creativity. | Provides detail that is derived from resources provided and appears to have played all games and visited all sights. Story written in first person with creativity. | In depth explanation of the process at hand with excellent attention to detail. Has taken advantage of sources. Journal entry written in first person and shows a great amount of creativity. |
| Performance | Unenthusiastic and appears not to have prepared for the assignment. | Not as engaged in the assignment but does appear to have done work. | Engaged and shows enthusiasm about final product or performance. | Goes above and beyond expectations in his/her involvement in the final product and performance. |
| Design | Very basic and generic reproduction of the water cycle. Does not include any additives (i.e animals, appliances, lakes, etc). Shows minimal understanding of the cycle. | Simple design with some added detail. Shows basic level understanding of the cycle but lacks knowledge of how it affects living organisms. | Design includes detail and shows understanding of all 4 processes of the cycle. Incorporates other elements that interact with the water cycle. | Impressive design that shows mastery of understanding of the cycle along with human and animal interaction with the cycle. Also illustrates different sources of water. |