

HUNTER MASTERMIND

STUDENT NAME:

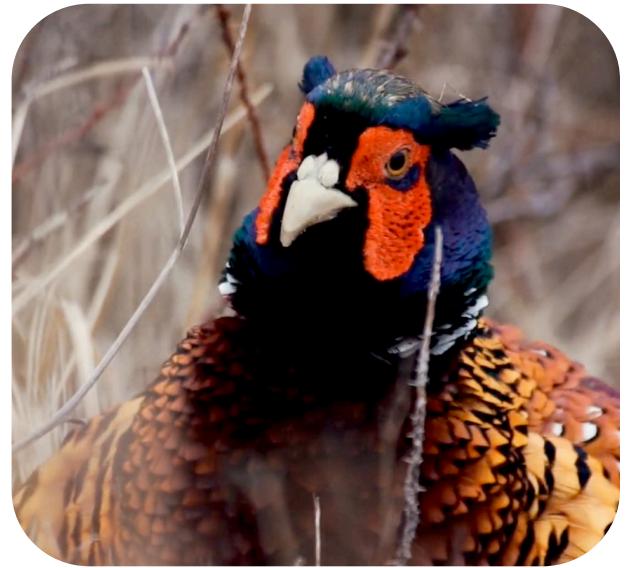
CLASS:

DATE:

YOUR WILDLIFE AREA'S NAME: _____

Greetings, Hunter!

Upland game birds are a family of heavy, ground-living birds that reproduce quickly, have tasty game meat, and are a classic favorite for the hunter. And thanks to good wildlife management practices, some upland gamebirds have increased in populations size – such as the North American Turkey! But without passionate hunters like you, there would be less money funded toward the conservation of these species. Plus, **hunting** is in fact a management tool that can be used to keep populations at healthy levels. That's why it's your job to make sure you keep the tradition alive and harvests bountiful by providing hunting opportunities at your **wildlife area**!

First, as a group, pick the **upland game bird species** your wildlife area will support: _____**To make sure your wildlife area supports hunting recreation, research about the following:**

- How do people hunt your upland game bird species? _____

- What biological characteristics should hunters know about your upland bird before hunting? Research about the bird's distinctive markings, sounds, movements, behaviors, habitat, and diet.

- Considering these characteristics, what strategies do hunters use to harvest these birds?

- What equipment do they need to hunt them? Include hunters in your diorama. _____

- What safety practices should hunters use during their hunts? _____

- What is the Hunter's Ethical Code? How should hunters ethically treat the wildlife and the land?

- How could you manage the habitats to make hunting in the area more accessible? Consult your habitat manager.

- Research about hunting licenses and permits as well as the Pittman-Robertson Act. How does hunting fund conservation programs? _____

- How does someone become a certified hunter? _____

- So then what are some ways you could increase hunter numbers? What programs will you offer at your wildlife area?

- Will you provide a lodge or shop that provides gear? _____

- Will you allow hunting during breeding and nesting periods? What seasons will you keep open to the public?

- What are regulations that hunters must follow? What is the daily bag limit? _____

- How many hunting permits will you give out each year to the public? Consult with your biologist. _____

Next, combine your research findings with your team members. As a group, use all of your discoveries to **design and craft your own wildlife area upon a cardboard sheet**. Then let your imagination run wild! You may paint, sketch, mold clay, cut construction paper, or even glue in natural resources like sticks, pebbles, sand, moss, grasses, branch clippings, and more. Your final masterpiece should indefinitely support your chosen game bird species and provide families (such as your own) with excellent hunting opportunities!

Your group will present your wildlife area diorama to the class with supporting research and reasons for your management practices. After a final vote, the group who ends up with the most “people” supporting their wildlife area will win the challenge!



Need more ideas for your game bird haven? Perhaps consider searching online or visiting wildlife areas near you that support your game bird species. You can discover their habitats and the wildlife management practices occurring at the site.