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## Webquest Evaluation

I created the rubric to evaluate webquests. I chose the webquest Save the Whales located at <http://projects.edtech.sandi.net/kroc/whales/> to evaluate. This webquest is meant for a seventh grade Science class. As I went through the website to score it for the rubric, I found the website to not be extremely visually appealing. The graphics that were present were meaningful and the color scheme was consistent and websafe, the website itself would score a 3 out of 4 for appearance. There could be additional photos pertaining to whales and a more appealing background. On some pages occasional whale sounds may have contributed to the learning. The content of the webpage scored a 3 out of 4. When you are first directed to the site, you have to infer where to go. The menu bar on the left hand side gives you topics but not a specific task. When you do click on the task button, the site has a concise explanation of what is expected, but may confuse someone who is unfamiliar with the site or the assignment. The assessment or evaluation portion of the website provides a rubric for the task that is being assessed. There are multiple links to worksheets that enable the learner to record information for their final project. The assessment scored a 3 out of 4 on my rubric. As I navigated through the webquest, there were multiple broken links within the site. Depending on the browser you use and how the site is opened, the navigation bar is not always present on the pages. The link button for the homepage is not properly labeled on each page and the learner may not understand the meaning of the button. Therefore, the site scored a 2 out of 4 on my rubric. The site had not been updated since 2001. As an educator, the material that is being used should be up to date in order to provide meaningful learning for the students.

In order to keep a student's interest, the site should be engaging. If the website is directed toward seventh graders, it should have graphics that will draw students of that age in. Many students may look at this webpage and not want to move on purely because it is not interesting to them. The information is often presented in large chunks without breaks. The site is wordy without anything to engage the student. This webquest scored a 2 out of 4 in the interest category. Finally, in the learning of material category, this webquest scored a 3 out of 4. Although the information may be hard to get through, the student is able to gain a fair understanding and complete the task.

Overall, the webquest has good information. It is not the most appealing. Depending on the students that are to be performing the webquest, they should be able to see the relevance in the topic to their lives. The site asks the students to give examples and recommendation for a cause. The students need to work together to come up with a plan. Given the appropriate design, this site could be very informative for the learner. I would chunk the information and create a more inviting design for the learners.