

United States: Our Founding Fathers

WebQuest Description: The students will research the lives and actions of our founding fathers and report how these actions affect our lives today. This Web Quest is for students in the Quest program Grades 1 - 4

Grade Level: 3-5

Curriculum: Social Studies

Keywords: American government, founding fathers, presidents

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Our Founding Fathers Curriculum Course

During the Our Founding Fathers Web Quest, we will be focusing on Social Studies / English Curriculum. Social Studies Skills* Students will explore and document information/research on our founding fathers.* Students will compare and contrast founding fathers and their impact on the United States to this date.* Students will utilize their research skills.* Students will use language art skills in their writing.* Students will create a power point presentation.* Students will discuss personal points of view.

Introduction

During this Web Quest you will be using the research skills that you learned from last month. You are a reporter for the biography channel. You will gather information about one of our nation's founding fathers. You will report your findings to your classmates and explain how the actions of these men affect our lives today.

Tasks

Research will be done by each student independently. Students will be assigned a founding father: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, or Alexander Hamilton. Once research is done, students will be given a role: research manager, recorder, design engineer, and project manager/reporter. You will create a presentation using PowerPoint. All work on the PowerPoint will be done during class time. Students will be given assignments each week for completion of the project.

Process

Week 1 - Each student will be assigned a Founding Father. It is each student's responsibility to research facts of the person they have been assigned. Students should click on the following links to find out information about their person. At the bottom of this page there is also a Biography Page document that provides information students need to find while doing research. All research should come to Week 2 class. Make sure you write down your source / bibliography of where you found the research. You should use the following websites to locate the information. George Washington Biography of Thomas Jefferson; Thomas Jefferson James Madison; <http://www.funtrivia.com/en/World/Madison-James-13732.html> Benjamin Franklin; Benjamin Franklin; Citizen Ben Alexander Hamilton and the U.S. Constitution Week 2 & 3 - Students have completed their research and bring it to Week 2 class. Now you have been placed in teams, you need to assign roles for each team member. Roles: Research manager: This person will be in charge of organizing all the material gathered, making sure that all the required information is found and a bibliography of sources is included. Design engineer: Under the direction of your teacher, the design engineer will be in charge of putting the final project together using PowerPoint or Zoho 2.0 Project Manager: The project manager is the person responsible for making sure that the project is completed on time. The project manager should also check the rubric to make sure that all the required components are in the final project. After gathering all of the information, go to ReadWriteThink and create a Timeline about your founding fathers' life. The timeline should begin with the person's birth and end with the person's death. Be sure to include any significant events in the person's life, including the role played in the development of our Constitution. It is the teacher's plan to do this in class. If this needs to be a homework assignment, the teacher will update this on the website. ReadWriteThink It is now time to create your PowerPoint presentation. You should include at least 16 slides. The first slide is the title slide and must include a picture of the founding fathers, the members of the team and his or her role. There should be two slides for each of the founding fathers which should include the information gathered during your research. Two slides should include how you think the founding fathers' actions have affected your life today. You must also have a slide that lists the resources used to create your PowerPoint, including any website visited. You may choose what to put on the remaining slides. Be creative and follow the rubric. PLEASE NOTE: If your

class has less than 5 members, your power point slide length will be different. Just remember to do your research and bring it to class on Week 2

Evaluation

Category and Score	Beginning 2	Developing 3	Very Good 4	Exemplary 5	Score
Content - Accuracy	Content is typically confusing or contains more than one factual error.	The content is generally accurate, but one piece of information is clearly flawed or inaccurate.	Most of the content is accurate but there is one piece of information that might be inaccurate	All content throughout the presentation is accurate. There are no factual errors.	%20
Spelling and Grammar	Presentation has more than 2 grammatical and/or spelling errors.	Presentation has 1-2 grammatical errors but no misspellings.	Presentation has 1-2 misspellings, but no grammatical errors.	Presentation has no misspellings or grammatical errors.	%20
Use of Graphics	Several graphics are unattractive AND detract from the content of the presentation.	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting development and movement toward mastery of performance.	A few graphics are not attractive but all support the theme/content of the presentation.	All graphics are attractive (size and colors) and support the theme/content of the presentation.	%20
Cooperation and slide inclusion	Group often is not effective in delegating tasks and/or sharing responsibility. The presentation has less than 8 slides.	Group delegates tasks and shares responsibility effectively some of the time. The presentation has 8-9 slides, but does not include a resource slide.	Group delegates tasks and shares responsibility effectively most of the time. The presentation includes 8-9 slides, including a resource slide.	Group delegates tasks and shares responsibility effectively all of the time. The presentation includes a title slide, three slides with information from the biography page, two slides that show the persons contributions, a timeline slide, a resource slide and two other slides for a total of 10 slides.	%4-
				Total Score	%100

Conclusion

Now that you have explored the impact that our founding fathers have on our life today, think about how our life would be different if this person had acted differently. Would our life be the same? Would someone else have done what this person did? Would you be able to do these things if you had been alive during this time? What if similar events happened today? Who would stand up for our citizen's rights? Would you?

Teacher Page

This webquest is designed Quest students in grades 1 -4. We will post our PowerPoints on Edline for others to see. The students will present their PowerPoints to Quest students in grades 1-4. Sources: All website links Zunal.com

Standards

Credits

Other