When "Things Fall Apart", What Would You Do?

WebQuest Description: This WebQuest is to get students to understand the novel "Things Fall Apart" by Chinua Achebe through the use of internet resources and will help them to achieve almost all of the Bloom Levels of thinking. It will help them understand the novel, Apply their knowledge to create a project, evaluate the situation, and analyze it and form their own opinions on the main characters actions.

Grade Level: 9-12  
Curriculum: English / Language Arts  
Keywords: Things Fall Apart

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Introduction

Would you rather... seem strong and fearless but lose everything that means something to you? Or get off your high horse and show some feeling in order to save it? Okonkwo, one of the most powerful, wealthy leaders and wrestling champions of the village of Umuofia in Nigeria takes a wrong turn. He decides to try and maintain his emotionless, strong, hardworking reputation instead of showing some emotion. Due to this decision, everything that meant something to him was destroyed. He kills his son, accidentally kills a man at a ritual ceremony, and his village gets taken over by "white men" who peacefully influence their culture and convert people to their religion. After reading this book, put yourself in Okonkwo's place... You will learn how to use either Prezi, Voki, Glogster, or Storybird - depending on which format you prefer - in order to complete your task. Now go to the task tab to find out what your task is!

Tasks

YOUR TASK... Is to put yourself in Okonkwo's shoes. How would you feel with the pressure that came from having a lazy father, and trying to be completely different from him in every way possible? You are going to put yourself in his shoes and either write journal entries, make a presentation comparing him and his father, draw a cartoon, or re-write the ending of the novel. After doing so, we will have a debate based on the decisions Okonkwo made and whether he was right or wrong. Finally, you will create in whatever format you would like, a final product stating your personal opinion on Okonkwo's actions and what he could have done differently. Go to the process tab to see the steps you need to go through in order to accomplish the task!

Process

STEP ONE: 1) Read the book, understand it, and know the literary elements to the story. 2) Take a short quiz just to test your knowledge of the book and make sure that you understand what you are reading.  
STEP TWO: 1) Put yourself in his shoes...  
   a) Using Voki, create six short journal entries from six different chapters as Okonkwo.  
   b) Using Prezi, create a presentation comparing Okonkwo, his father, and the village.  
   c) Create a cartoon based on the main points of the story and the highlights of Okonkwo's downfall.  
   d) Using Storybird, write a different ending to the story.  
STEP THREE: 1) You will be divided into two groups. 2) One side will agree with Okonkwo's decisions and actions and the second side will disagree with Okonkwo's decisions and actions and suggest a different path he could have taken. 3) After the debate, write/display your own personal opinion about what you thought of Okonkwo's decisions and actions. Below are some extremely useful resources to help you create your projects and do your research! In order to find out how you will be graded, go to the evaluation tab!
The evaluation breakdown is simple! FIRST... Your quiz grade is out of 15. SECOND... Your "Put Yourself in Okonkwo's shoes" project is out of 20 points. THIRD... Your debate groups will be evaluated as a whole and it is also out of 20 points. AND FINALLY... Your personal opinion of Okonkwo's actions will be out of 15 points. The breakdown of ALL of these assessments can be seen in the attached rubric document.

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Total Score

Conclusion

Upon the completion of your assignments and assessment, you should fully understand the novel Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe. You would have learned to use AT LEAST one of the online resources provided to complete your project, complete a quiz online, research for your debate topic, and finally use another resource to display your personal opinion! Use these resources for other projects and subjects that are applicable to other areas of knowledge!