Heart of Darkness

WebQuest Description: Pre-reading webquest for the novel Heart of Darkness.

Grade Level: 9-12
Curriculum: English / Language Arts
Keywords: Joseph Conrad, Colonial Africa
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Introduction

The Heart of Darkness is a novel written by Joseph Conrad. It is a Victorian Era novel that examines the impact of European colonialism in Africa in the 1890's. It is considered a novella because it is only 70 pages long. The novel is set in the Belgian Congo and examines the ideas of white supremacy and the perceived "white man's burden" to civilize Africans. Click on the link below and watch the short introductory clip.

Tasks

"The Terrorist and the policeman both come from the same basket"
Joseph Conrad

Your task is to research the background of the novel Heart of Darkness. With a partner, you are to research on of the assigned item below:
1. Social Context- What was the social climate of the Victorian era? What kinds of things did they value? How were women treated? Children?
2. Historical Context- What was going on in Europe as it relates to the African continent?
3. Author's Background - Give a summary of the important details of Joseph Conrad's life? Why is this novel considered important?
4. Belgian Colonialism- Who was the King at this time? What were his policies? How did he view the continent of Africa?
5. White Man's Burden- Define and explain.
6. Characters in the novel - List all of the major character with a description
7. Structure of the novel - What is the structure and how does it relate to the meaning.
8. Themes in the novel - List the predominate themes in the novel.
9. The river Congo. - Explain its importance.
10. Civilization vs. Savagery - How does this theme relate to the novel? What other novels have we read that have this same theme?
11. Discovery Education - View the Discovery Education Video on The Heart of Darkness (I will log you in) and write questions for the class to answer as we view the video.
12. Political History of the Congo
13. Compare Heart of Darkness and the movie Apocalyse Now - Explain the connection between the two.

Process

You are to complete the following: 1. After you are given your topic, you are to take notes using the Cornell Notes Method. 2. You must then decide how you will present you information to the class. You may do any of the following: a poster, a powerpoint with questions to distribute, a lecture with questions to distribute, typed notes that you distribute to the class, a graphic organizer that you give the class to complete while you share you information. The more creative the better! 3. The class MUST walk away with something that you have prepared to share as you teach. This means that it must be prepared BEFORE you present so that I have enough time to make your copies. I will not leave the class to make your copies and I will not send thirty copies of your item to the printer. PLAN AHEAD! 4. You must turn in your notes as well as the item you are giving the class.

Evaluation

You will be graded using the rubric below.
You now have an arsenal of pre-reading information to use as we embark upon a trip up the Congo River as we read Heart of Darkness. Please keep all notes and information in order to prepare for tests and quizzes.

I teach British Literature at Arabia Mountain High School in Lithonia High School. Arabia is an Engineering, Medicine and Agriculture Magnet School and is LEED certified.

### Standards

#### Credits

#### Other