

The Protestant Reformation

WebQuest Description: With the posting of his Ninety-Five Theses, Martin Luther set in motion not only a drastic change in religion, but in politics and society all over Europe. Europe, as well as the rest of the world, has never been the same since. This WebQuest has you explore and analyze the causes of the Protestant Reformation as well as the short and long-term effects of it including today.

Grade Level: 9-12

Curriculum: Social Studies

Keywords: The Protestant Reformation, Protestantism, Catholicism, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Pope Leo X, Indulgences, Ninety-Five Theses

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Introduction

It was the cause of numerous deaths, wars, movements, expulsions, emigrations, immigrations, and changes in thought. Some deemed it as heresy while others saw it as just. For many it started with just one man, regardless if what happened was his intention or not. Due to his overwhelming animosity and agitation towards the Catholic Church, particularly in regards to indulgences, Martin Luther wrote his Ninety-Five Theses and reportedly nailed them to the doors of a church in Germany on October 31st, 1517. This document sought to point out various practices within the Catholic Church that Luther saw to be corrupt. Soon after, his theses were published and the arguments within it sparked the Protestant Reformation. It spread swiftly throughout Europe causing not only religious schisms, but political ones as well that have had ramifications lasting even to this day. The Protestant Reformation changed the way man looked not only at the papacy, or Catholicism, but also at Christianity. For many this signaled the end for the so-called Middle Ages and the start of the Renaissance.

Tasks

This WebQuest will have you explore the causes of the Protestant Reformation as well as the effects. YOU are the historian! You will be in a group with 3 or 4 of your fellow historians to answer several questions. Your goal is to go through provided resources to find the causes as well as the short-term, long-term, and permanent ramifications of the Protestant Reformation. Together your group will be charged with the job of political advisors to a European monarch during the 16th century. Your group's role is to cooperatively come up with political, social, and economic reasons for allowing or condemning Protestantism in your country and present your group's arguments to your monarch. Once your group comes to a consensus you will create a presentation showcasing your argument. Also, each of you will individually write a short paper on how the Protestant Reformation has changed the world. Below are several links that you should explore at this point. There are many conflicting opinions and arguments out there and this is a sensitive subject, so please remember you are an historian and thus a professional. Please remain, sensitive, considerate, and respectful to other's views.

Process

Let's begin! In the first part of this WebQuest you and your fellow group members must delegate group roles that you all must follow to be as productive and successful and possible. The roles are: Leader: makes sure everyone is fulfilling their individual roles and staying on track Recorder: organizes and writes down notes Primary Researcher: most skilled at researching via the Internet or library resources in case further resources are desired by group Primary Artist: most skilled at creating or designing a presentation of your group's argument Once roles are delegated they are not set in stone, but please make sure your group is working as effective and efficient as possible. In the second part of your WebQuest your group should go through the several Internet resources provided (on the Task page). Feel free to use other resources, but please run them by the teacher to make sure they are appropriate and credible. When going through the resources you and your group should answer these following questions: Who was involved in the Protestant Reformation? Was it just clergy and nobility? Who was for it, who opposed it, and why? Who was Martin Luther? What were Luther's grievances with the Catholic Church? Who was John Calvin and what was his role in the Reformation? Who was Pope Leo X and what was his role in the Reformation? Why were some people, authorities, and government so quick to become Protestant? What happened to the Catholic Church as a result of this? What happened to Christianity as a result of this? How has this changed the way Europeans viewed themselves? Was Martin Luther solely responsible for the Protestant Reformation, why? Was what ultimately happened to Europe and Christianity Luther's true intention, why? How has it shaped the world, as we know it today? (this one is crucial to your short paper) In the third part return to these questions and the answers your group came up with. This is where you and your group will be stepping into the shoes of political advisors to a European monarch. It is your duty to come up with reasons in support of or in opposition to allowing Protestantism in your country. You must create a well-balanced argument to present to your monarch that considers and addresses the political, social, and economic wellbeing of your country. This is a difficult task but your country's counting on you to cooperatively come up with a side! Other resources than the ones provided may be necessary to tackle this issue. Once you all have collaboratively created an argument, you can move on to the fourth part of your WebQuest, which is deciding how to go about presenting your compelling argument to the monarch (the teacher) and other nobility (your classmates). Brainstorm to figure out the best way for your group to get your point across. You can be creative as you want (PowerPoint presentation, skit, etc.) but the main focal point is the argument itself. Teamwork is a must on this part and everyone must play their role in order for your group to

be successful. In part five you and your group, and the other groups as well, will be presenting their findings and arguments (worth 20 points). Each group will have 5-10 minutes to present their argument. Each group member must play an active role in the presentations in order for the entire group to receive credit. The final step to this WebQuest, part six, is an individual task. You will be writing a short paper, 2-3 pages in length (worth 30 points), exploring the issue of the Protestant Reformation. The main question that must be answered in the paper is "How has the Protestant Reformation shaped the world as we know it today?" This is a persuasive piece so your opinions are welcomed, BUT they must be backed up with sources and facts. Call upon your findings during your research, group work, and other groups' presentations to lead you to your own answer, however, this will require further research. Think about wars, formations of new Protestant denominations, and the role of the common man in religion to help with your paper.

Evaluation

There are two Excel documents attached below. One for the group presentations and one for the essay. Each rubric has descriptions for what is considered excellent, good, average, or poor work. Please read both carefully and consult each throughout doing your WebQuest to ensure you receive the best grade possible.

| Category and Score | | | | | Score |
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Conclusion

Well you've done it! You have explored the web and other resources to get to the bottom of the Protestant Reformation. Through research, group work, and individual work you have sought out and found the causes and the political, social, and economic consequences for the Reformation throughout Europe in the 16th century. You were able to share your arguments and absorb your group's in or order to tackle a 16th century issue. You've even traced the Reformations ramifications all the way to today and were hopefully able to see the way it shaped the modern world. Congratulations! If you would like to learn further about this check out these sources below:

Teacher Page

This is a very sensitive issue so it would be good to do this later in the school year. Students need help building social skills; they need to learn how to work cooperatively and be respectful for others' cultural backgrounds in order to effectively do this WebQuest with little or no unfavorable interactions between students. So, once you as a teacher know your students, worked with them on these social skills, and are comfortable with them, then you can introduce a topic such as this.

Standards

Pennsylvania State Standards:

8.4.9.A: Compare the role groups and individuals played in the social, political, cultural, and economic development throughout world history.

8.4.9.B: Contrast the importance of historical documents, artifacts, and sites which are critical to world history.

8.4.9.C: Analyze how continuity and change have impacted world history in: belief systems and religions, commerce and industry, technology, politics and government, physical and human geography, and social organization.

8.4.9.D: Analyze how conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations have influenced the history and development of the world.

Credits

Other

Below are some sources for you as a teacher that will help better your knowledge on this topic.