A Thousand Splendid Suns

WebQuest Description: Evaluate the roles of women in pre- and post-war Afghanistan; distinguish between the religious and regional sects within the Middle East; relate the novel's thematic basis to the author's life; identify and interpret Arabic terms found within the novel and commonly used in Afghan culture; and complete questions/create charts showing comprehension of these details.

Grade Level: 9-12
Curriculum: English / Language Arts
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Introduction

As we have been reading A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini, you all have come up with several thought-provoking questions about Afghanistan, religions and cultures, language development, and the author. So guess what? You're going to explore different websites and answer your very own questions!

Tasks

Following the exploration of each link on the process page, your final task is to create a tri-board which highlights all of the information found on the websites in a unique way. You will need to answer all of the questions on your webquest worksheet. The information that you gather will be reworked in a creative way and displayed on your tri-board.

Task 1: Photo EssaysGo to LightBox (http://lightbox.time.com) and on the right-hand side of the screen, search for the following topics (in the LightBox search only): Taliban, Afghanistan, Afghanistan's Soviet Invasion, Kabul, Women in Afghanistan. You view various photo essays on these topics. While doing that, you will complete the attached worksheet. Following your completion of the worksheet, you will write a one-page response on the following topic (the journal topic is found on the worksheet also): No doubt the pictures you found made you feel a certain way. Express your feelings and reactions to the pictures. Be sure to address the following questions: How did the pictures make you feel? Be specific. Make one large connection from the pictures to the text.

Task #2: The Role of Afghan WomenRead the two articles below. Write a 1-page response to each one. Afghan Boys Are Prized, So Girls Live the Part Afghan Girl: A Life Revealed

Task #3: Ethnic DiversityYou will choose one of the main ethnic groups of Afghanistan. Then, as you visit the websites below, take notes on the following aspects of ethnic cultures: Population, Location, Languages, Religious Affiliation, Common Occupations, Customs, Physical Appearance, Identifiers. These websites will be useful in finding this information: PBS: Afghanistan, Afghanistan's Tourism, Ethnic Groups, Afghan Network, BBC: Afghanistan, CNN: World Maps.

Task 4: An Author's Life - Khaled HosseiniFor this task, you will browse websites containing biographies, interviews, and information about the novel's author, Khaled Hosseini. For each of the websites below, write down 3 facts or important details about the author. You should have a total of 12 facts/details by the end of your research. Khaled Hosseini's Website · Biography · NPR Interview with Hosseini · Academy of Achievement · Khaled Hosseini · TIME Entertainment: Q&A Session with Hosseini

Task 5: Afghan Language in A Thousand Splendid SunsReferring to your novel, you will document several Arabic/Farsi terms used in the book. Language development helps you understand what you read in a broader sense, so just skipping over these words isn't doing you any good. Look up the meanings of the following terms in online dictionaries ONLY. Do not use wikipedia sites or other cheat sites (gradesaver, sparknotes, pinkmonkey, etc.). Jinn, Kolba, Harami, Ahmaq, Jihad, Mullah, Hamaminqilabi, Namaz, Babaloo, Na Fahmide, Dokhtar

Evaluation

Now that you've finished the webquest, you are required to use all of the information you learned or researched and create a tri-folding board (project board) that creatively displays the five tasks you were assigned. Your grade will be based on the rubric below. Task #5 is not on the rubric below, but will be a part of your grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category and Score</th>
<th>Beginning (1 Point)</th>
<th>Developing (2 Points)</th>
<th>Meeting (3 Points)</th>
<th>Exceeding (4 Points)</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Task #1</td>
<td>There is little to no information on the project board pertaining to Task #1.</td>
<td>There is information from Task #1, but it wasn't creatively presented on the project board.</td>
<td>There is information from Task #1, and it is creatively displayed on the project board.</td>
<td>There is plenty of synthesized information from Task #1, and it is creatively displayed on the project board.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Great work! You are now prepared to finish reading the novel now that you’ve gotten a deeper understanding of the underlying themes and historical content related to the country of Afghanistan.

**Conclusion**

Enjoy using my web quest. Feel free to adapt any of the content to your classroom experience.

**Standards**

**Credits**

**Other**