A Tale of Two Cities: History WebQuest

WebQuest Description: This Webquest is part of a project for Crean Lutheran High School.

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

The purpose of this WebQuest is to become familiar with the historical content of the French Revolution, which is the setting of A Tale of Two Cities. The French Revolution took place in 1789 and lasted until 1799. It was a series of conflicting views and unhappiness within the government as well as the commoners of France. Many important political leaders emerged from this time period and contributed to some serious changes within the French government and society. A Tale of Two Cities connects to the French Revolution through specific events such as the storming of the Bastille and brutal killings. There is a class struggle between characters and connects to the current social and economic climate in France during this time period. In this WebQuest, the students will be also asked to investigate the United States' reaction and position to the French Revolution. To begin, click on the "Task" page!

Tasks

Student will explore specific events that happened during the period of the French Revolution and will be able to better understand the plot of A Tale of Two Cities. They will also explore the affects of the French Revolution. Student will work in groups or on their own (as determined by the instructor) and complete the following tasks:
1. Create a timeline of events
2. Explain the event the Storming of the Bastille and its significance in history.
3. Determine how the guillotine was used in French society during the Revolution
4. Explain United States' response/reaction to the French Revolution


Task 1: Create a timeline of important events during the French Revolutionary period. During this, please read a chronology of the time period and pick out the important details of the French Revolution. Look at the first website and second website under resources. After reading, create a timeline by typing it into a template. The template is located in the resource section.

Task 2: Explain the importance of the Storming of the Bastille and its significance in history. During this, please research about the Storming of the Bastille. Use the third and fourth website listed under resources as a starting point for your research. After researching about the topic, please write a short write up (no more than 2 pages, double spaced) about the importance of the Storming of the Bastille and write how it changed policy in France.

Task 3: Discuss the parts of the guillotine and its use during the Reign of Terror. Please look at websites regarding this. Use the fifth, sixth, and seventh website link and the YouTube video under resources. After reading and watching, please write down the impact of the guillotine and how it was used during the Reign of Terror.

Task 4: Discuss United States' reaction to the French Revolution. Please look at websites regarding this. Use the eighth, ninth, and tenth website link. Be ready to report your findings to the class in a form of oral presentation (5 minutes max).

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on the four tasks assigned to them as well as their oral presentations for their fourth task. The WebQuest will be out of 50 points.

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At this point, the students should have a very good understanding of the events of the French Revolution. Congratulations for finishing the WebQuest!

This WebQuest is about the French Revolution. It is meant to supplement the novel, A Tale of Two Cities. Teachers, please feel free to modify the instructions to fit the needs of your classrooms. Enjoy!

Standards

Credits
Special thanks to Mrs. Jessica Wrasman for unwittingly insinuating this project. The resources, such as pictures and web links, are external websites and I would like to thank them for supplying additional information so that this WebQuest could be completed accordingly.

Other
Prerequisite Skills: Comfort level with the internet and presentation programs including Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.
Time Required: 2 - 3 days to complete the webquest.
Technology: Students will need access to a computer that has relevant programs to complete the tasks. The library (public and school) will be suitable if no computer is available at home.