The Grapes of Wrath - Family Travel Project

WebQuest Description: As the Joad family travels throughout the novel The Grapes of Wrath, so will you "travel" in this assignment. Family groups will be assigned by your teacher. As a family you will have a certain amount of money to spend as you travel, visit, and spend time in five states in ten days as a family. You will have a pen pal who you will write as you travel. Other assignments will include brochures of all states you visit, travel log, financial log, and daily journals.

Grade Level: 9-12
Curriculum: English / Language Arts
Keywords: The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck, travel
Published On: 2008-11-03 19:21:47
Last Modified: 2008-11-03 19:16:12

Introduction

Have you ever gone on a vacation with your own family? Did you want it to be over before you even left? Now is your chance to create your own family and choose where you will go on vacation. The best part is that you will not even spend your own money! Continue on to find your TASK if this sounds like a vacation you would like to be a part of.

Tasks

You will create many products in completing this activity. First, you will create your persona. It will be important that you stay in character as you complete your assignments. Second, you will write your pen pal letters and post cards. Third, you will write in your personal journal every day of the ten days of the vacation. Fourth, as a family you will each have a state brochure to create of the states you visit on vacation. Fifth, as a family you will keep track of family spending in a financial log. Lastly, as a family you will keep track of your travels on a daily basis in your travel log. Separate grades will be assigned to each individual assignment. As a family you will be graded for the family travel log and financial log.

Process

1. You will be assigned to a family of 3-5 students. Each student will need to decide what their name, age, and personality will be. Also, as a family you will need to decide on a last name. 2. You will each be assigned a pen pal who you will write three letters and two postcards to during your travels. The due dates will be provided so you will not be late in sending your mail. 3. Each family member will write in their own daily journal. You must know where you are traveling as a family so the journals will be accurate. Also, stay accurate to your character as you write in your journal. 4. Each family will need to decide where they are traveling on this vacation. You must visit five states in ten days. You will be provided $2500 to use for your vacation for food, gas, and other "extras" as you enjoy your vacation. 5. You must also decide what type of vehicle you will use for traveling as a family. Please print off information about your vehicle - including size of the gas tank, miles per gallon, and how many people it can carry. 6. To find gas stations as you travel you can use the following websites - www.gasbuddy.com or http://www.gaspricewatch.com/new/default_V3.asp. To find information about vehicles you can use the following websites - www.edmunds.com or http://autos.msn.com/ or http://www.carfax.com/. To find information about the fifty state you can use the following websites - http://www.infoplease.com/states.html or http://www.teachersfirst.com/share/states/index-net.html or http://www.globalcomputing.com/states.html

Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category and Score</th>
<th>Beginning 1</th>
<th>Developing 2</th>
<th>Very Good 3</th>
<th>Exemplary 4</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pen Pal correspondence</td>
<td>Wrote and sent at least one letter and one postcard to pen pal. Letters were at least 40 words and postcards were complete.</td>
<td>Wrote and sent all but two letters and postcards to pen pal. Letters were at least 50 words and the postcards were informative.</td>
<td>Successfully wrote and sent all letters and postcards to pen pal. Letters were at least 80 words and the postcards attempted to be colorful.</td>
<td>Successfully wrote and sent all letters and postcards to pen pal on time. Letters were at least 125 words and the postcards were colorful.</td>
<td>%30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily journals</td>
<td>Five journals of 125 words each were written on time.</td>
<td>Six journals of 125 words each were written on time.</td>
<td>Eight journals of 125 words each were written on time.</td>
<td>Ten journals of 125 words each were written and submitted on time.</td>
<td>%30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You should all be “experts” in planning a vacation now after this experience. I hope you have learned something about other states, how much a vacation actually costs, and communication skills in a family and with a pen pal. Take what you have learned and maybe you will create your own vacation one day where you will actually travel on the road instead on the Internet.

### Teacher Page

**Focus:** This WebQuest focuses on many things as the student reads the novel The Grapes of Wrath. First, students will write in an appropriate voice for the audience in the pen pal letters and postcards. The student will also record information about their vacation in a reflective journal. The student will also work together in a group to decide where they are traveling, where they eat, how they will travel, and how the will get along as a family. **Objectives/Goals:** I would recommend starting this project after beginning The Grapes of Wrath. The students should have some knowledge about the Joad family and their own personal travels as a family. **Resources:**

**Prerequisite Skills:** Comfort level with the Internet

**Time Required:** 13 days for lessons (Three days for the students to decide where they are going, the method of travel, and information about the family members) (The actual vacation will be ten class days.)

**Technology Needs/Materials Needed**

Since students will be working in groups, it is not necessary for each student to have a computer, but each group must have one accessible to them every day. They will also have access to a printer (a color and a black printer).

**Credits:** The resources and web links included on this website are external websites and I would like to thank them for creating such useful WebPages.

**Standards**

**Credits**

**Other**