American Symbols with Jack and Annie

WebQuest Description: A WebQuest for 2nd grade Social Studies class
Grade Level: K-2
Curriculum: Social Studies
Keywords: American symbols, American flag, White House, Bald Eagle, The Liberty Bell, The Charters of Freedom, The Star-Spangled Banner, The Pledge of Allegiance
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Introduction

Jack and Annie have plenty of awesome adventures in The Magic Tree House books by Mary Pope Osborne. They are now headed around the United States of America in search of many American symbols. The good news is you get to travel with them as their travel companion!! The bad news is that Jack has no research guide in this adventure so they are both depending on you to be the expert. You will learn about the different American symbols using this WebQuest. Using your research, you will make a research guide that Jack and Annie will be able to use to travel in the Magic Tree House and find the very valuable American symbols! Now Jack and Annie are waiting for you to help them in this next adventure, so don't wait another minute to get started!!

Tasks

First, you will identify ways Americans honor their country. In addition, you will identify American symbols. As you are ending your research, you will recognize and recite or sing the Pledge of Allegiance, the national motto, and the national anthem. Finally, you will use your research to create a research guide to help Jack and Annie find the real American symbols in their next adventure! Good luck!

Process

Since Jack and Annie are depending on you to be the American symbol expert, you better get to work on your research.

Symbols of the U.S. government include:

American Symbol #1: The Flag

American Symbol #2: The White House

American Symbol #3: The Statue of Liberty

American Symbol #4: The Bald Eagle

American Symbol #5: The Liberty Bell

American Symbol #6: The Pledge of Allegiance

American Symbol #7: The Star-Spangled Banner

American Symbol #8: The Charters of Freedom

Try out this American Symbols Game to check if you are ready to create your Research Guide for Jack and Annie! You now have lots of good information to help Jack and Annie find the American symbols. Next, you need
to organize the information into the Research Guide that you will give them.

You will create a research guide including the eight American symbols you researched. Each American symbol needs to be illustrated (hand-drawn or clip art provided by your teacher) and fully colored. In addition, you will write a one sentence description of each American symbol. You can do it!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category and Score</th>
<th>Beginning Researcher</th>
<th>Novice Researcher</th>
<th>Advanced Researcher</th>
<th>Lead Researcher</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illustrations (colored picture or clip art of symbol)</td>
<td>2-3 pictures with little or no color (2 or 3 points)</td>
<td>4-5 pictures with some color (4 or 5 points)</td>
<td>6-7 pictures mostly colored (6 or 7 points)</td>
<td>8 pictures fully colored (8 points)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symbol Facts</td>
<td>2-3 symbol facts written in the notebook (2 or 3 points)</td>
<td>4-5 symbol facts written in the notebook (4 or 5 points)</td>
<td>6-7 symbol facts written in the notebook (6 or 7 points)</td>
<td>8 symbol facts written in the notebook (8 points)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventions (capitalization, spelling, punctuation)</td>
<td>Several (+5) mistakes (1 point)</td>
<td>More (4-5) mistakes (2 points)</td>
<td>Some (2-3) mistakes (3 points)</td>
<td>Few (0-1) mistakes (4 points)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Score</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion**

The Magic Tree House is back! Perfect timing . . . Your created Research Guide is with the other research books in the treehouse and Jack and Annie are sure to use it in their next adventure as they find American symbols around the United States. They have asked you to come with them as your reward for your hard work on the American Symbols Research Guide. Your extra effort paid off BIG time. Jack points to the cover of your American Symbols Research Guide, which has your favorite American symbol on it, and states, "I wish we could go there!" The wind starts to blow. The tree house starts to spin. It spins faster and faster. Then everything is still.

**Teacher Page**

This WebQuest was created to give your learners a different way of learning objectives in Social Studies that may not be naturally interesting to them. Having the popular fiction book characters, Jack and Annie, from The Magic Tree House books will give them motivation to complete the WebQuest successfully. Giving them a fun task will hopefully make their study more engaging than ever! This WebQuest was created for a variety of learners. The first link on the Process page for each American symbol (e.g. The White House 1) is the easier of the two. The second link (e.g. The White House 2) is more challenging and for advanced readers. There are two YouTube links for the visual learners in your classroom.


Additional Read-Aloud Literature Resources:
- I Pledge Allegiance by June Swanson
- In 1776 by Jean Marzollo
- The Flag We Love by Pam Munoz Ryan
- Illinois Learning Standards
- English Language Arts
- STATE GOAL 3: Write to communicate for a variety of purposes.

3.A.1 Construct complete sentences which demonstrate subject/verb agreement; appropriate capitalization and punctuation; correct spelling of appropriate, high-frequency words; and appropriate use of the eight parts of speech.
including description, information, explanation, persuasion and narration. 3.C.1b Create media compositions or productions which convey meaning visually for a variety of purposes.

STATE GOAL 5: Use the language arts to acquire, assess and communicate information.

5.A.1a Identify questions and gather information. 5.A.1b Locate information using a variety of resources. 5.B.1a Select and organize information from various sources for a specific purpose. 5.C.1a Write letters, reports and stories based on acquired information.

STATE GOAL 14: Understand political systems, with an emphasis on the United States.

14.C.1 Identify concepts of responsible citizenship including respect for the law, patriotism, civility and working with others. 14.F.1 Describe political ideas and traditions important to the development of the United States including democracy, individual rights and the concept of freedom.

The ISTE National Educational Technology Standards (NETS-S) and Performance Indicators for Students

1. Creativity and Innovation: Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology. Students:
   a. apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes

3. Research and Information Fluency: Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information. Students:
   a. plan strategies to guide inquiry
   b. locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and ethically use information from a variety of sources and media
   c. evaluate and select information sources and digital tools based on the appropriateness to specific tasks
   d. process data and report results.

Standards

Credits

Other