



Rationale

This project will engage your students as they explore the history of America and create a museum exhibit based on their research. Students will practice writing summaries and making creative museum displays.

Objectives

Students will

- Research significant events in American history using primary and secondary sources
- Synthesize information from multiple sources into a summary
- Create a display using information gathered during research
- Cite reliable sources using an online citation creator

Materials Needed

- Student instruction sheet
- Devices/books for research
- Organizers/Topics List
- Materials to create their display. Some of the items needed may need to be brought from home.

Suggested Timeline

Day 1

- Introduce the project and go over the assignment sheet.
- Split students into groups and assign them a topic from the list.
- Hand out the research organizer. Start research.
- Remind students to keep track of their resources.

Day 2

- Students have the entire class period to research their topic and write their summary.
- Remind students to keep track of their resources and bring any materials they need to create their display.

Day 3-4

- Students focus on writing their summaries and creating their displays.
- They should also work on citing their sources.

Day 5

- Students set up their displays. Do a gallery walk of all the projects. As an option, have the students write down their reaction to each display. What did they already know? What did they learn?

Student Instructions

You are the curators at a museum featuring an exhibit for the 250th anniversary of America. You will work in groups to research, summarize, and visually represent an important historical event as assigned by your teacher.

Research

Research your topic using online resources. Look beyond websites—try finding newspapers and other primary sources. Thoroughly investigate your topic and keep track of your sources!

Summary

Each group member will write a 4-6 sentence summary of a particular aspect of your topic based on your research. This should look like something someone might read at a museum exhibit. Each group member must write about something different. Summaries should be in your own words! Use the Research Organizer to put it together.

Creating and Assembling Display

You will create at least one artifact related to the topic you covered in your summary. It should look/feel authentic, but will be completely designed and developed by you. It must be something that might have actually been found in the time period. For example, you could write a letter from a citizen of Montgomery, Alabama, to a family member about the bus boycott.

Options for your artifact

- Letter Photograph (you draw it or create it)
- Legal document
- Poster
- Poem
- Speech
- Model (not too big and with a caption explaining what it is)
- Diary

You may do something not listed above, but your teacher must approve it.

Museum Display

Your group's finished project should resemble a museum exhibit. It should have a title (9/11 Remembered, for example) and a summary located near the artifact. On the due date, each group will set up the finished exhibits and then do a gallery walk as though the classroom were in an actual museum.

MLA Works Cited

You will be required to cite any sources you use in your research (be sure to use reliable sources). Your Works Cited page should include all of your sources in MLA format. You must have a minimum of three sources, one of which is a primary source.

****The citation page should be turned in separately. It is not part of the display.****

Purdue Owl

Citation Machine

Museum Project Rubric

<u>Individual</u>		
Summary		
	4-6 sentences	_____/5
	Content	_____/5
	Mechanics	_____/5
Artifact	Creativity	_____/5
	Effort	_____/5
	Authenticity	_____/5
Works Cited	3 sources/cited MLA	_____/10
	Total	_____/40
<u>Group</u>		
	Title of Project	_____/5
	Exhibit Display	_____/15
	Total	_____/20

Topics List

Founding and Early History

- 1492 – Columbus's Arrival in the Americas
- 1607 – Founding of Jamestown (First permanent English settlement)
- 1620 – Pilgrims Land at Plymouth and Sign the Mayflower Compact
- 1770 – Boston Massacre
- 1773 – Boston Tea Party
- 1775–1783 – American Revolutionary War
- 1776 – Declaration of Independence
- 1781 – British Surrender at Yorktown
- 1787 – U.S. Constitution Drafted
- 1789 – George Washington Becomes First President
- 1791 – Bill of Rights Ratified

Expansion and Division

- 1803 – Louisiana Purchase
- 1812–1815 – War of 1812
- 1820 – Missouri Compromise
- 1830 – Indian Removal Act
- 1831 – Nat Turner's Rebellion
- 1846–1848 – Mexican-American War
- 1848 – Seneca Falls Convention (First Women's Rights Convention)
- 1849 – California Gold Rush
- 1850 – Compromise of 1850 & Fugitive Slave Act
- 1857 – Dred Scott Decision
- 1860 – Abraham Lincoln Elected President

Civil War and Reconstruction

- 1861–1865 – American Civil War
- 1863 – Emancipation Proclamation
- 1865 – Assassination of Abraham Lincoln
- 1865 – 13th Amendment Abolishes Slavery
- 1868 – 14th Amendment Guarantees Citizenship
- 1870 – 15th Amendment Grants Voting Rights to Black Men

Industrialization and Progressivism

- 1890 – Wounded Knee Massacre (End of Indian Wars)
- 1896 – Plessy v. Ferguson Legalizes Segregation
- 1898 – Spanish-American War
- 1901 – Theodore Roosevelt Becomes President
- 1917–1918 – U.S. Enters World War I
- 1920 – 19th Amendment Grants Women the Right to Vote

Depression and World Wars

- 1929 – Stock Market Crash and Start of the Great Depression
- 1933 – New Deal Begins
- 1941 – Attack on Pearl Harbor and U.S. Enters World War II
- 1945 – U.S. Drops Atomic Bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- 1947–1991 – Cold War Begins (Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, etc.)

Civil Rights and Modern America

- 1954 – Brown v. Board of Education Ends School Segregation
- 1963 – March on Washington / “I Have a Dream” Speech
- 1964 – Civil Rights Act Passed
- 1965 – Voting Rights Act Passed
- 1969 – Apollo 11 Moon Landing
- 1974 – Watergate Scandal and Nixon’s Resignation
- 1991 – End of the Cold War / Soviet Union Collapse
- 2001 – September 11 Terrorist Attacks
- 2008 – Barack Obama Elected as the First Black President
- 2020 – COVID-19 Pandemic and George Floyd Protests
- 2021 – Capitol Insurrection on January 6

