

World Studies Summer Project Summer 2009

“The only thing we require to be good philosophers [and good students] is the faculty of wonder” (Sophie’s World). As you prepare for World Studies, begin to actively wonder again. As small children we all have this capacity, but as we grow up, it seems to diminish. Through the activities described here, we want you to wonder about from where you come, from where your neighbors come, how the world came to be the way it is, and how you fit into it.

To start our study, we want you to research your own family and find out what cultures are a part of you. When school begins, we will take this information and develop group presentations to illustrate the diversity in our class. These family tree/ heritage assignments should be completed by the **FIRST FULL DAY OF CLASS** but **DO NOT** bring them in until we ask you to do so.

And the assignment is.....

Part 1: Family Tree

- Trace your lineage through at least one parent back three generations (parents, grandparents, great-grandparents) or as far as necessary to find another culture.
- Prepare a neat, attractive, easily read family tree to bring to class.
- Include birth dates, death dates, and places of residence as completely as possible.
- List your sources. Include all resources that you consulted in preparing your family tree.
- Write a one paragraph narrative that explains how you approached the project. What did you do first, second, third? What obstacles did you face? How did you solve these problems?

Part 2: Artifact

- Choose an object that is important to your family
- Bring the object or a photograph of it to school on the day of our presentations, **NOT** the first day of school.
- Write a one paragraph explanation of how this object is significant to your family.

Part 3: History of Ancestor and Country of Origin

- Identify the ancestor who first emigrated and explain the probable reason for coming to the U.S. This means you must know the approximate date of his/her arrival here and then research the country of origin to determine possible events that would force or lure someone to leave home for an unknown land. Here, you definitely need to **wonder** a bit.

- Create a rough draft of a timeline of events that occurred in your country of origin that may have influenced your family to leave or which are notable events in World History.

Part 4: Current Status of Country of Origin

- Find an article in a current news magazine about the government, social structure, economic structure, religion, arts, literature, scientific achievement, intellectual developments, current conflicts or problems of your country.
- Read it!
- Write one paragraph that succinctly summarizes the article. Include at the top of the page the author, title of article, title of magazine, and date of publication.
- Write a second paragraph that answers these questions: Why is it important? Why did the author write it? Who is the audience for the article? How does it connect to your family history?

Part 5: Novel Analysis CUBE:

THIS IS DUE THE FIRST FULL DAY OF CLASS. BRING YOUR CUBE! REPEAT. BRING IN YOUR CUBE THE FIRST FULL DAY OF CLASS.

Read:

- A novel of at least 150 pages.
- Create a cube using the attached instructions:
 - I. Setting: Explain the historical context. For example, when did the story take place? What events of historical significance provide the backdrop for the story? What specific places are important?
 - II. Characters: Describe each major character. What motivates each person? What background does each bring to the story? What is her unique point-of-view? How do the other characters view him or her? What relationships are important?
 - III. Conflict: Identify the major conflicts by type: man v society, man v himself, man v fate, man v man. Explain how each affects the story.
 - IV. Plot: Summarize the story. What events occur?
 - V. Theme: What important questions about society or religion or life does the story raise? Why did the author want to bring these issues to light?
 - VI. Critique: What is your opinion of the story? Why? Would you recommend it? Why or why not?

Call or e-mail us with questions. You can reach Ms. Wilson at 452-0611 or kaya.wilson@sumnerschools.org or pat.highers@sumnerschools.org.

Have a good summer!