**Social Studies**

**Spring Student Enrichment Packet**

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**6th Grade**

**World Cultures & Geography I: The Western Hemisphere**

**™**

**Department of Curriculum and Instruction**

**Office of Academic Programs**

**Prince George’s County Public Schools**

**NOTES FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

The purpose of this “culture quest” is to give students an opportunity to research and refine their knowledge about a country or culture beyond their World Cultures studies in school. The task below will assist students as they complete a student “blog” about their chosen country or culture. If access to technology is not readily available, please consider a “low tech” version of this project: an informational poster.

* Use the calendar on page 3 as a general guide to complete your project. Evaluation criteria can be found on page 4.

Don’t know what a “blog” is? Simply put, a blog is similar to an electronic bulletin board. Use this link to access Blogger: [https://www.**blogger**.com/](https://www.blogger.com/)

* Please use your PGCPS student email address to set up your Blogger account. Families should discuss this process together. Ensure that you do save your work to share with your teachers, family, and friends. Weebly Education <https://education.weebly.com/> is a similar online tool and may also be used.
* Think about the topics you have recently studied in Social Studies. Think about what cultures you will soon study. Narrow your ideas down to a single topic. You might also skim through your World Cultures textbook for specific ideas.
* Your blog should address many aspects of the topic you choose to research, such as important history, significant individuals, and culture (language, dress, foods, etc.). Be sure to present a balanced view of your topic—don’t focus too much on one or two things—and, ensure that there are approximately the same number of factual pieces about your topic as there are images.
* Begin to research your topic. Use a variety of primary and secondary sources. Keep in mind whether or not your sources are accurate.
  + As you make your notes, be sure to keep track of the source of that information. Along with your culture quest blog, you will need to develop an annotated bibliography. Use this link to help you <https://nhd.org/annotated-bibliography>.
* Use information from websites and books to provide the historical background for your blog. Consider focusing on the geographic area you are studying in your World Cultures class. These websites may be useful to you as you begin your research.
  + <http://lanic.utexas.edu/la/region/museums/> (links to museums that reflect many Latin American cultures)
* If your family chooses to take a field trip to a museum, you can use the documents linked to this page to help you gather historical evidence: [www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/lesson\_plans/collect/telsto/telsto04.htm](http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/lesson_plans/collect/telsto/telsto04.htm).
* Include a multi-paragraph process paper that explains how you chose your topic, how you conducted your research, and your experiences in creating your blog.
* Be sure to include an annotated bibliography of the sources you used.

Spring Enrichment Culture Quest – Grade 6 Social Studies

**QUEST TASK CALENDAR**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Directions:**  This calendar provides guidance to create a “blog” based on culture and historical events of a location related to your World Cultures studies. More details about how to complete this task are on the next page. | | | |
| **Day 1**  Plan for your blog. Investigate the Blogger website. Select a topic.  Conduct research for your blog. Take notes of useful information and cite your sources. Begin to place images and information on your blog. Arrange your information in logical ways on your blog. Ensure that the number of images and factual information is balanced. | **Day 2**  Continue to develop your script. Be sure to note stage directions.  Complete your annotated bibliography. | **Day 3**  Complete your process paper. Review it for correct spelling and grammar.  Reflect on your experience as a researcher and blogger. Add your reflection to your process paper. | **Day 4**  Do one final review of your blog. Does it include information to give viewers a good understanding of the topic/culture you studied?  Exhibit your blog to invited guests. Share highlights from your process paper. Celebrate your success! |
| **Enjoy your quest!** | | | |

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**

From an Historical Point of View:

* Is the entry historically accurate and authentic, or does it have serious errors and/or omissions?
* Is there a wide use of primary and secondary sources? Is the research balanced, and—if appropriate—does it demonstrate an analysis of all points of view?
* Does the presentation demonstrate the balance of viewpoints?
* Is the annotated bibliography correct in format and content?

From a Literacy Point of View:

* Is the main idea or topic clear and coherent, or are the ideas presented in a scattered, incoherent way?
* Is information enhanced with formatting, graphics, and other visual images?
* Is the language used precise and appropriate for the format of presentation? Does it maintain an appropriate style or tone? Does it show a command of conventions of writing and/or speaking?
* Is the annotated bibliography correct in format and content?

Quality of Presentation:

* Is the overall organization of the quest project coherent?
* Does the final product exhibit a high degree of creativity?
* Are all aspects of the final product appropriate to the topic and to the grade level of the student(s) who created it?
* Is the presentation/performance of the quest project of high quality?
* Are all incorporated visuals, sound effects, music, speeches clear and relevant?

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