

Title: The Great Depression WebQuest
Subject: U.S. History
Grade: 10th

Standards:

1. All students will sequence chronologically the following era in history and key events within this era in order to examine relationships and to explain cause and effect: The Great Depression and World War II (1929-1945). (Michigan Content Standard I: Historical Perspective)
 - a. Describe major factors that characterize the following era in United States History: The Great Depression and World War II (1929-1945). (Michigan Content Standard I: High School Benchmark #2)
 - b. Identify some of the major eras in world history and describe their defining characteristics. (Michigan Content Standard I: High School Benchmark #3)
2. All students will understand narratives about major eras of American history by identifying the people involved, describing the setting, and sequencing the events. (Michigan Content Standard II: Historical Perspective)
 - a. Draw upon narratives and graphic data to explain significant events that shaped the development of the United States as a nation during the eras since Reconstruction. (Michigan Content Standard II: High School Benchmark #1)
 - b. Select events and individuals from the past that have had global impact on the modern world and describe their impact. (Michigan Content Standard II: High School Benchmark #3)
3. All students will acquire information from books, maps, newspapers, data sets, and other sources including the internet, organize and present the information in maps, graphs, or charts, interpret the meaning and significance of information, and use a variety of electronic technologies to assist in accessing and managing information. (Michigan Content Standard V: Inquiry)
 - a. Locate information pertaining to a specific social science topic using a variety of sources and electronic technologies. (Michigan Content Standard V: High School Benchmark #1)
 - b. Use traditional and electronic means to organize and interpret information pertaining to a specific social science topic and prepare it for in-depth presentation. (Michigan Content Standard V: High School Benchmark #2)
 - c. Develop generalizations pertaining to a specific social science topic by interpreting information from a variety of sources. (Michigan Content Standard V: High School Benchmark #3)

Objectives:

1. To construct a timeline of the major events of the Great Depression including its causes.

2. To discriminate which of these events are most important to contemporary people and the future of the nation.
3. To comprehend how events from the past affected the lives of individuals, families, nations, and the world.
4. To locate information about the Great Depression by using electronic technologies.
5. To organize information about the Great Depression in a PowerPoint presentation.

Materials:

1. PowerPoint Lecture on the Causes of the Great Depression
2. Computers with Internet access
3. Software requirements: Microsoft PowerPoint
4. Directions for Initial Day in Computer Lab Handout for each student. (See Below)
5. Appointment for 3-4 days in the Computer Lab
6. A copy of the enclosed rubric for each cooperative learning group. There is a link to the rubric on the WebQuest Homepage at [http://coleman.glenrocknj.org/HeresL-WebQuest/mccannl_The GreatDepressionQuest.htm](http://coleman.glenrocknj.org/HeresL-WebQuest/mccannl_TheGreatDepressionQuest.htm)

Opener:

1. The day before beginning the WebQuest it is a good idea to give students some background information on the causes of the Great Depression. (See the attached PowerPoint Presentation in the Exhibit Section of my E-portfolio)
2. On the initial day for the WebQuest pass out the Directions for Initial Day Handout and divide the class into cooperative learning groups of two or three students.
3. Go to the Computer lab.
4. Suggest to students that they read through the entire WebQuest upon arriving at the computer lab and then take a look at the rubric so they know what will be expected of them.

Procedure:

1. Students will spend four full days in the computer lab to complete this assignment. Two days could be spent on research and two days spent on preparing the PowerPoint Presentation.
2. The assignment is to create a fictitious museum exhibit using PowerPoint. After the research phase, the students should select ten items that they feel are most representative of the events, people, and emotions of the Great Depression. These selections can include photographs, poems, oral histories, music, etc.
3. In the end, the students will be presenting their museum exhibit to a “board of museum trustees” (a small panel of teachers, parents, etc.), who will decide on the final ten items for the exhibit.
4. The first few slides in each student presentation should include an introduction and an explanation of why an exhibit on the Great Depression is important. This introduction should be followed by the ten slides, which represent students’ exhibits. Each exhibit slide should include a picture of the item and a detailed description of the item. Finally, the last slide should be a bibliography, which gives credit to all websites used

to create the exhibit. Explain to students that creativity is expected for this assignment.

5. After the students have created their presentations provide ample time for them to present them to the “Board of Trustees” and the class.
6. Finally, the “Board of Trustees” decides on the ten most impressive finds or “artifacts” for the museum after hearing all of the presentations.

Closure:

The teacher should debrief after this activity by discussing which items the “Board of Trustees” picked as the ten best for the exhibit. Discuss with students their favorite “artifacts” from the presentations and the reasons behind their choices.

Assessment:

Assessment will be based on the score from the rubric. Criteria for assessment will include:

- a. Quality and number of items chosen
- b. Quality of oral presentation
- c. Creativity and Organization
- d. Resources and Bibliography
- e. Punctuality
- f. Teamwork

Evaluation/Reflection:

Cooperating Teacher Approval and Comments:

We are going to the computer lab for the next four class periods to complete a WebQuest on the Great Depression. Exact directions can be found at the following web address:

http://coleman.glenrocknj_org/HeresL-WebQuest/mccannl_TheGreatDepressionQuest.htm

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