

Research Project – The Changing Lives of Native Americans

Introduction

You will be researching the lives of Native American tribes or leaders in order to understand how their lives changed during the nineteenth century. You will present the answers to specific questions in an oral report to your classmates, who will be responsible for assigning a grade. Additionally, you will turn in your notes and a bibliography to Mrs. Young for a grade. The total points possible for the project are 40.

The Topics

You are required to research the lives of Native American tribes or their leaders whose lives were changed during the 1800s. You must sign up for your topic with Mrs. Young because only one student per class will be able to use each topic. The following are some samples of acceptable topics, but you can use others with Mrs. Young's approval (there are books on other acceptable tribes in the library).

Creek	Cherokee	Choctaw	Pawnee	Chickasaw	Shawnee	Navaho
Miami	Seminole	Delaware	Potawatomi	Cheyenne	Iroquois	Apache
Sioux	Tecumseh *	“The Prophet” *	Sequoya *	Little Turtle *	Black Hawk*	Osceola*

* Means the topic is a leader, not a tribe.

The Questions

Your research report needs to answer each of the following questions. These questions will help you understand the changing lives of Native Americans during the 1800s.

1. What was your topic's culture or life originally like? (For example, describe such things as their beliefs, traditions, activities, way of life, etc.)
2. How did your topic react to white Americans? (For example, did they engage in warfare, accommodation, acculturation, etc.?)
3. How did life change for your topic during the 19th century? (For example, did they become farmers, did they move, were they killed, etc.?)

The Notes and Bibliography

You will be required to turn in your notes and bibliography to Mrs. Young on the due date. Your notes should include the location of your information and the relevant information you acquired. For example:

A More Perfect Union, p.204.

“The Cherokee favored cultural accommodation, or peaceful compromises, with white society. They tried to combine the best features of both European and Cherokee culture.”

Your bibliography should be an alphabetical listing of all of the sources you got notes from. It should also briefly describe how the source helped you with your report. An example of the format I would like you to use is as follows:

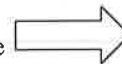
Armento, Beverly. A More Perfect Union. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1991.
This book explained why the Cherokee were forced off of their land.

If you get information from your textbook, you must have the textbook included in your bibliography.

The Oral Report

You will present your research project to a group of your classmates. Your report should be approximately 5 minutes long and include the following:

See other side



- An exciting introduction
- Complete answers to each of the three questions
- An interesting conclusion

You may have notes, but you may not simply read from your paper. You should have good eye contact and clearly demonstrate that you know your content.

The Grading

The total points possible on this assignment are 40. This will be broken down in the following way:

- 20 points – average of student-given grades on your oral report
- 10 points – notes and bibliography
- 10 points – participation in the grading of your classmates' reports

You will receive a rubric that will give you guidelines for scoring the reports. If I believe you are not doing your best possible job at scoring your classmates, I will ask you to justify your grades. If you can not do so to my satisfaction, you will receive a zero for participation.

The Due Date

You will have four days to work on your research project (Tuesday, 1/28/14 – Friday 1/31/14). Your oral report will be delivered, and your written report, notes, and bibliography turned in, on **Thursday, February 6, 2014**. **Late work will not be accepted!** Good luck and have fun!

Sample Rubric for Oral Reports

Reporter's Name: _____

Grader's Name: _____

Content Grade (total possible =10): _____

10	8	6	4	2
Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Well organized, completely answers all questions, has introduction and conclusion, interesting and informative	Mostly well organized, mostly answers all questions, has introduction and conclusion, mostly interesting and informative	Some organization problems, not all questions fully answered, weak introduction and conclusion, only moderately interesting	Major organization problems, two or less questions answered incompletely, weak intro and conclusion, not interesting	Not organized, questions not answered, no introduction or conclusion, not interesting or informative

Presentation Grade (total possible =10): _____

10	8	6	4	2
Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Excellent eye contact, rarely looks at notes, excellent voice projection	Good eye contact, sometimes looks at notes, good voice projection	Average eye contact, often looks at notes, average voice projection	Does not often give eye contact, often reading notes, fair voice projection	No eye contact, reads notes, poor voice projection

Total Grade (content grade + presentation grade) (total possible =20): _____