Middle Ages Research Project

400 A.D. (C.E.) until 1500 A.D. (C.E.).

By Royal Proclamation of the 6th Grade Royal Court

Hear ye! Hear ye! Loyal citizens of Mount Olive Middle School!

The crown jewel of your first year at Mount Olive Middle School will undoubtedly be your year-end trip to Medieval Times. Here, you will witness a royal joust and a falconry exhibition, as well as learn about the lifestyles of the members of the royal court.

In addition, you will tour many exhibits in the facility’s Museum of the Middle Ages before the main event. The curators of the museum would like to update and expand the exhibits to include several different aspects of life in the Middle Ages. Your task is to persuade the curators to create new exhibits based on your feedback.

- First, research the topics that you believe are the most important aspects of Medieval life for students to learn about while touring the museum.

- Next, design a convincing presentation of information using the available technology including a digital brochure, a Prezi, or video recorded news report.

- Finally, share a copy of your presentation with your fellow subjects and the museum curators.
Topics to be considered for new exhibits include:

**Life in a Medieval Village**
- Food
- Attire/Clothing
- Jobs/Economy
- Peasant Family Life/Housing
- Pastimes/Entertainment

**Royal Life**
- Entertainment (Examples: jousting and falconry)
- Attire/Clothing
- Lords, Ladies, Knights
- Feasts
- Housing/Land Ownership

**Art, Architecture and Inventions**
- Castles and Moats
- Cathedrals
- Village Dwellings
- Artwork
- Inventions

**Historical Events**
- The Plague, “Black Death”
- The Crusades
- The Magna Carta
- The 100 Year War
- The Spanish Inquisition

*You are commanded to choose your top two topics of choice, and your highnesses (a.k.a. your wonderful teachers) will try to honor your request based on the number of people who choose this topic. Details to follow.*
Student Expectations

• Topics
  □ Select your top three choices. Once you are assigned your final topic, choose three subtopics to research.
  □ Select whether you want to work individually or with a partner and choose your project option accordingly. Note: the news broadcast is a partner project while the brochure and Prezi are individual. If you choose a partner project, make sure you will be able to meet with your partner outside of school to complete parts of the project, if necessary.

• Research
  □ Using the “Topics Choice Sheet” provided, record your topics and the research questions you create.
  □ Using the approved websites document attached, gather print and electronic resources.
  □ Use “Note Taking Sheet” to gather and organize your research in your own words.

• Technology Infused Research Project
  □ Design a technology-based research project to persuade the museum curators about your exhibit ideas.
  □ Choose one of the following formats to present your research information:
    Prezi
    Digital brochure with Hyperlinks
    Recorded news broadcast
  □ Use approved website, www.easybib, to generate a works cited page (See how-to sheets).

• Presentation
  □ Present to your assigned group.
  □ Present your information in a clear, organized way using appropriate expression and eye-contact.
  □ Answer all questions asked by the audience.
Detailed Project Descriptions

A. **Digital Brochure** *(individual option)*

(See “How-to” sheet on making the brochure and “How-to” sheet on creating Hyperlinks)
Create a digital brochure with hyperlinks to online resources using Word. Choose a topic of interest and select three subtopics to research in depth.

- Must be colorful and visually interesting (at least one picture on each page)
- Informative
- Organized
- Follows given instructions
- At least four hyperlinks
- Include titles and subtitles and other text features
- Include a separate page for the Works Cited in MLA format

B. **Newscast** *(partner option)*

Create a news broadcast of a specific event (like a battle, the Plague, etc.) or an aspect of life in the middle ages (such as a broadcast from a royal celebration/joust or an interview with the builder/architect of a royal castle).

- Create a well-written script in which you interview key participants and report “live” from the news desk and/or report events from “the scene”.
- Using the media center’s video cameras, record your broadcast of at least five minutes and no longer than ten minutes.
- Must include three visuals, such as maps or photos.
- Must include at least two interviews.
- Submit script planning sheets.
Detailed Project Descriptions--Continued

c. Prezi (individual option)

Design a Prezi (like a PowerPoint) of your chosen topic.

- Must include at least fifteen slides and no more than twenty, or be about ten minutes in length.
- Must include several images (three or four) for each subtopic.
- May include imbedded video with a voiceover or music.
How do I start?

**Step 1**—Choose your top two topic choices and submit them on the slip provided.

- When you have been assigned your final research topic, write three research questions (one for each of your subtopics).

**Step 2**—Begin researching using recommended websites and books. You may also seek other resources, but remember the guidelines for choosing reliable sites. As you research, you must write down your resources and all important information relating to the sources on your source list.

- **Tip:** Try using the search term Middle Ages as well as Medieval.

**Step 3**—Take notes from each source using the Note Template pages provided. Be sure to paraphrase in your own words. Do not just cut and paste information.

**Step 4**—Begin drafting your project.

**Step 5**—Get approval of your script, brochure or presentation layout ideas.

**Step 6**—Create a “Works Cited” page using your list of resources.

**Step 7**—Revise and proofread your first draft into a final draft.

**Step 8**—Present your project in your assigned group.
Internet Sources to Use:

http://www.kathimitchell.com/middleages.htm

http://www.learner.org/exhibits/middleages/ General Information

http://www.lordsandladies.org/middle-ages-time line.htm General Information

http://www.thenagain.info/webchron/westeurope/spaninqui.html Spanish Inquisition

http://www.medieval-life-and-times.info/ General Information

http://www.mnn.com/green-tech/research-innovations/blogs/6-important-things-that-were-invented-during-the-middle-ages Inventions

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/building_a_medieval_cathedral.htm Castles

http://www.learner.org/interactives/middleages/clothing.html clothes, homes, feudal system, arts & entertainment

http://www.history.com/topics/black-death plague

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/food_and_drink_in_medieval_engla.htm foods

http://medievaleurope.mrdonn.org/ General – all topics

To create your “Works Cited” page:

www.easybib.com – how to create a bibliography
# How to decide whether or not websites are appropriate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Accuracy of Web Documents</th>
<th>Accuracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who wrote the page? Can you contact him or her? Is there information on the Web about him or her? Is the person qualified to write this document?</td>
<td>Make sure author provides e-mail or a contact address/phone number.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2. Authority of Web Documents</th>
<th>Authority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is it a known site? Was it published? Is there copyright information? Is there information that it was published?</td>
<td>Make sure there is publisher/copyright information and a date (usually on the bottom).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. Objectivity of Web Documents</th>
<th>Objectivity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is the purpose of the site?</td>
<td>If the pager advertises or discusses religious or persuasive topics do not use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How detailed is the information?</td>
<td>Ask yourself: Why was this written and for whom?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What opinions (if any) are expressed by the author?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<th>4. Currency of Web Documents</th>
<th>Currency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When was it produced?</td>
<td>If there are multiple inactive links do not use. If the site created more than 10 years ago, do not use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is it current?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are the links inactive or active?</td>
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<th>5. Coverage of the Web Documents</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Is it all images or a balance of text and images?</td>
<td>If the site requires you to pay before providing any valid information, do not use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the information presented cited correctly?</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

***HELPFUL HINT: If your site ends in .gov, .com, .org and .edu, they are generally good sites to use!***

Cited from: [http://olinuris.library.cornell.edu/ref/research/webcrit.html](http://olinuris.library.cornell.edu/ref/research/webcrit.html)
## Research Mini-Lessons for Teachers to Complete

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Additional Information/Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle Ages</td>
<td>Research background on the Middle Ages so that students know the time period and the basics</td>
<td>Middle Ages video from Discovery Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valid vs. Invalid Websites</td>
<td>Teacher will pull up websites provided</td>
<td>Worksheets attached</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Teachers can modify from this site: <a href="http://olinuris.library.cornell.edu/ref/research/webcrit.html">http://olinuris.library.cornell.edu/ref/research/webcrit.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoiding Plagiarism</td>
<td>Teacher will discuss what plagiarism consists of and show examples</td>
<td>Using Purdue OWL website:</td>
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<tr>
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<td><a href="https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/">https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Brainpop.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Cited/ Bibliography</td>
<td>Overview MLA format, provide examples</td>
<td>Easybib.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note Taking</td>
<td>Model using SMARTboard – show how to take notes online without plagiarizing, show students how to move from Word to the internet with two windows open on desktop</td>
<td>Up to individual teacher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name: _____________________________________________

Name: _____________________________________________

Topic Choice #1 _______________________________________

Topic Choice #2 _______________________________________

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Name: ____________________________________________  Name: ____________________________________________

Assigned Topic: ____________________________________________________________

My chosen subtopics:

1. ____________________________________________

Research Question: __________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________

Research Question: __________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

3. ____________________________________________

Research Question: __________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

4. ____________________________________________

Research Question: __________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

5. ____________________________________________

Research Question: __________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________
# Student Checklist and Timeline

**Assignment Date:** ______________________

**First Draft of script/brochure sketch/slides:** ______________________

**Final Due Date:** _______________________ 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher Initials/Date</th>
<th>Student Initials</th>
<th>Task Completed</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>1. Subtopics/research questions approved</td>
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<td>2. Notes check #1 (2 sources) QUIZ GRADE</td>
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<td>3. Notes check #2 (2 sources) QUIZ GRADE</td>
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<td>4. First Draft Check</td>
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<td>5. Works Cited Check</td>
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## Print Source Page Information

Name: __________________________________________

**Directions:** Complete the information for each source.

### Print Sources:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author #1 (first, middle and last)</th>
<th>Author #2 (if more than one)</th>
<th>Author #3</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Place of Publication</th>
<th>Year of Publisher</th>
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</table>

Grade 6 ELA Research Project

Mount Olive Township Public Schools

Page 12 of 14
# Website Source Page

Name: ____________________________________________

**Directions:** Complete the information for each website.

**Website:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Website</th>
<th>Web Address</th>
<th>Publisher/Sponsor (Who made the site?)</th>
<th>Date of Access (When did you visit?)</th>
<th>Date website was published (This may not be available.)</th>
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Hyperlink Report - How to

What is a Hyperlink Report?

Take your standard brochure written in Microsoft Word but add in websites, definitions, videos, music, and images through the use of links. Here you will get to put your writing skills, research abilities and creativity to use to develop an interactive presentation.

Check out this sample paragraph from a Hyperlink Report (click on the underlined words):

World War Two in Europe began in September 1939, when the Prime Minister of Britain, Neville Chamberlain, declared war on Germany. It involved many of the world's countries. The Second World War was started by Germany in an unprovoked attack on Poland. Britain and France declared war on Germany after Hitler had refused to stop his invasion of Poland.

What you need to do:

First, write your research report by going through all of the steps of the writing process. Then select important words that you feel should be hyperlinked.

Keep in mind:

- Video clips should not be more than 3 minutes long.
- You need to have a variety of images, videos, websites, definitions, etc.

The websites you use should be off of the approved list.