

Hist-6 Country Research Project – As of 10/09

Purpose: The purpose of this Country Research Project is to learn more about how to do historic research, how to write a research report, and to learn more about a specific country and region of the world.

Another purpose of this project is for you to investigate in depth a country in the world that you want to learn about. You will study its history, geography, and culture. You may remember this project for the rest of your life. It should be a place you want to know more about.

What is due and when? On Thursday, January 28, 2010, you will submit a Written Report including an Annotated Bibliography, a Display Board, and give an Oral Presentation in costume on your country to the class and teacher. In addition there will be two progress checkpoints. On Wed., January 6, 2010, a draft of the written report is due. On Thursday, December 3, 2009, a draft of the annotated bibliography is due.

Methodology: Over the next three months you will become an expert on the country that you select. You will research the country's history, government, culture, and population. You will identify any key contributions to world history from your chosen country. You will read a book on your country, and can use other resources, such as the Internet or a documentary video to provide additional information for your report. While you are reading your research materials you should be making notes for your report. These can be on note cards (3x5 or 4x6) or on notebook paper.

Research Notebook / Folder: During the History Research Project you will be required to keep a folder (with pockets), a 3-ring notebook, or a section in your main binder with a divider and label to organize your research materials. Mrs. Mangan will be distributing handouts and reference materials to keep in the folder/notebook. This is a place to keep your notes, Internet research pages, and drafts of your Written Report, and notes for your Display Board, Oral Report, and Annotated Bibliography. This folder/notebook should be available at school during History class weekly. If you do not have the folder/notebook, you will lose points from your grade. In addition, when other History HW is completed in class, you can use any remaining time to work on your History country research and report.

Developing the Report and Avoiding Plagiarism: When you write the report content and develop the oral presentation, all of it should be written by you, and must be in your own words. You may paraphrase the source, but not use their words, instead use your own to describe the country and its history. If there is a key word, phrase, sentence, or paragraph you want to use from another source, then you must give the author/source credit in your report. You will be required to include at least e quoted references in your report. There will be a whole handout and lesson about plagiarism and correctly attributing sources. In the meantime, if you are beginning research before the lesson, keep detailed notes from each of your research sources, and the name of the author, book, publisher, date published, and pages used. I will help you throughout this research project; however, if you have any questions about whether what you have written has appropriately avoided plagiarism, see me with both your writing, and a copy of

the source document or book. If you use an encyclopedia, keep a copy of the pages available until the report is concluded. If plagiarism occurs, it will be punished. This may include receiving a zero on the report, an F for the Quarter in History and suspension from school.

3rd Quarter Grading: The Country Research Project will be 30% of your 3rd Quarter Grade. Grading for the 3rd Quarter will be:

Country Research Project	30 %
Homework/Classwork	30 %
Tests/Quizzes	30 %
Participation and Preparation	<u>10 %</u>
Total 3 rd Quarter Grade	100 %

Country Research Project Grading: The grading for the research project will be as follows:

Written Research Report	50 %
Display Board	20 %
Oral Presentation	20 %
Annotated Bibliography	<u>10 %</u>
Total Historic Research Project	100 %

Details for each of these research elements are discussed on later pages in this handout. Detailed rubrics are also included for each item.

Note: No Written Research Report, Display Board, or Oral Presentation will be accepted without a completed Annotated Bibliography. The only printed copy of the Annotated Bibliography is placed in the Written Report on the last page(s). This includes references for both the Written Report and the Display Board.

Class time and resources for research: There is a weekly planned research and writing session during History class during this project. There is a schedule of these days provided in the packet. This will mean that there are several hours of time to conduct your research, read books or materials from research, write your research paper, and work on your Annotated Bibliography or Oral Presentation during class. This gives you the opportunity to get help on your project as you are working on it. The research time will not be free time, study hall, or time for socializing. It will be a silent work session for students on research projects or history curriculum only.

Additional Lessons in April to Prepare for Research:

Avoiding Plagiarism

Formatting an Annotated Bibliography

Country Written Report

The Written Research Report will include a **Title Page**. The **Body of the report** will be 4-6 pages in length, and double-spaced (between 1,000-1,500 words). The maximum length of the body of the report is 2,000 words or 8 pages. The report is to be word-processed and printed in a 12 or 14-point font with one-inch margins all around. There will be page numbers printed at the bottom or top of the pages in the body of the report (not on the title page). Hand-written page numbers are not acceptable. The last page of the report is an **Annotated Bibliography**. The specifications for this page will be provided later in this handout.

The **Title Page** will include the Name of the Country (if there is an additional title, include this also). Also include a picture or map of the country, or another picture that relates to the country. Also include your name, the date, and the Class for which you are submitting this report (History or Hist-6).

Body of the report: Use indentation on paragraphs. Include an **introductory** paragraph or section to set the stage – tell us what you are going to tell us. In the introductory or concluding paragraph (section) **include the reason(s) why you selected this country**.

Information about the country to include in your report should include:

1. Location and Geography
 - a. Capital
 - b. Major Cities
2. Population
 - a. Major ethnic groups
 - b. Languages spoken
3. Government
 - a. Leaders (President, Prime Minister, King/Queen, Cabinet)
 - b. Structure (Parliament, Congress, Legislature)
 - c. Elections or Succession
4. Economy
 - a. Major exports
 - b. Major crops
5. National symbols
 - a. Flag
 - b. bird, flower, animal, rock, song, etc. (as are available and you decide are appropriate)
6. Culture
 - a. Religion
 - b. Art
 - c. Architecture
7. Country's History
 - a. Ancient History (Before 400 A.D.)
 - b. Middle Age History (400 A.D.-1700 A.D.)
 - c. Modern History (1700 A.D. to Present)
8. Additional interesting facts – surprising things you discover as a result of your research.

These sections can be in a different order if you choose, just label each section. This helps the reader with your flow. Each section should have at least one paragraph. Some sections should have 2 paragraphs or more (Location/Geography and Government). The History section of the report should have at least 3 paragraphs (one or more on each time period). If you are not sure how long each section must be, see the Rubric for the Country Written Report. If the number of points possible is 10, then there is one paragraph minimum required in that section. If the number of points possible is 20, then there are two paragraphs minimum required in that section. If the number of points possible is 30, then there are 3 paragraphs minimum required in that section.

Headings in the Body of the Report are also **required**. Breaking the report into sections helps the reader follow your flow. Examples of some Headings are: Introduction, Location, Geography, Capital, Major Cities, Population, Government, Economy, National Symbols, Country's History, and Conclusion.

Your report must contain at least 3 quotes with references in the text. For example: "The population of France is over 64 million people according to the 2004 annual census." (CIA Factbook)

The reference in parentheses must be one of the listings in the Annotated Bibliography.

Include a **concluding** paragraph or section – tell us what you told us. This may be the section where you tell us why you chose this country. (If the reason you chose the country is not in this section, it should be in the Introduction.)

This written report must be thoroughly edited. It should have no errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and indentation. Run-on sentences and fragments should be eliminated. This should be a final version of your report. Any remaining errors will result in points being taken off of your final grade.

After the Body of the Report, include the words "**Word Count: #####**" with the number of words in the Body of the Report. Also include the names of two editors, who have edited your draft of the report. One must be an adult, and one must be a student. Add a line that says, "**Edited by Adult Name and Student Name.**" This section must be included in the draft, and should be updated in the final report.

A copy of the file for the report body is required for part of your grade. It should be in MS Word (2003) format, and must be loaded on the computer/server at school. If students work on their reports at home, they can email the file to themselves or Mrs. Mangan, and then copy the file onto the computer. Students can also use a thumb drive (memory stick, USB device) or a CD to transfer the file. If students do not have a computer available at home, they may use the computers in Mrs. Mangan's classroom after school to complete their report.

Note: Pictures, timelines, maps, and other support materials should be included on the Display Board, which is discussed later.

Country Written Report Rubric

Requirement	Pts Possible	Pts Awarded	Comments
<u>English</u>			
Neat, organized presentation	20		
Correct Spell/Grammar/Punc /Capitals/Indentation	80		
Well written, organized, Good flow	30		
Word Count and Edited by incl.	10		
File on computer at NDS	10		
<u>English Grade Point Total</u>	150		

Country Written Report Rubric

Requirement	Pts Possible	Pts Awarded	Comments
History: Title Page: (5 points)			
Country Name (Title)	5		
Picture	5		
Student Name, Date, Class	10		
Physical Report Requirement:			
Printed Page Numbers	10		
12-14 Point Font	10		
Double-spaced	10		
1-inch Margins All Around	10		
Section Headings	10		
Sections Included:			
Introduction	10		
Location / Geography	20		
Capital	10		
Major Cities	10		
Population	10		
Government	20		
Economy	10		
National Symbols	10		
Culture	10		
Country's History	30		
Reason Country Chosen	10		
Additional Facts	10		
Conclusion	10		
3 Quotes with References	10		
Additional Considerations:			
History Grade Point Total:	250		

Annotated Bibliography

An **Annotated Bibliography** is a list of resources you used to investigate your report. It also describes each resource, how it was used, and how useful it was. An instructional sheet and sample Annotated Bibliography will be provided for your project research. **An Annotated Bibliography is required for the Written Research Report, Display Board, and Oral Presentation to be graded.** This is printed in the Written Report only.

For each Bibliography entry the Author, Title, Publisher, Date Published, Volume, and Page Number are required (if available). In addition each Annotated Bibliography entry must a narrative (sentence format) which describes how this material was used in the Written Report, Display Board, or the Oral Presentation, and how useful the material was.

The **minimum number of entries** for the Annotated Bibliography is four. **One** of these entries must be a **book**. The other entries can be from the Internet, encyclopedia, magazines, movies, or other resources.

Internet entries must be completed correctly for their credit.

1. **No entries with only the web address will be accepted.**
2. No entries with Google as the web-site will be accepted. The reason for this is that Google is a search engine. It does not give information, instead it supplies information from other web-sites, including pictures. Use the web-address for the information or picture itself. If you are unsure, see Mrs. Mangan for help with this.
3. Web-site references in the Annotated Bibliography must include: The Name or Title of the web-site, the author (if available), the date published, and the date last updated, and the date the web-site was accessed for this report. Ask Mrs. Mangan for help with this if you need it.

Annotated Bibliography Rubric

Requirement	Pts Possible	Pts Awarded	Comments
<u>Page Formatting Requirments:</u>	10		
Title centered - Annotated Bibliography			
Alphabetized Entries			
Hanging Indents			
<u>At Least 4 Entries: (1 Book, 3 Internet/other)</u>			
Correctly Formatted, All Required Information (2 pts each x 4 entries)	40		
<u>Additional Considerations:</u>			
<u>Total:</u>	50		

Country Display Board

The Display Board will include the **Title**, which is the **name** of the **Country** you selected. The country name should be large and prominent on the board. The student's name (First and Last) should also be prominently displayed on the front of the board. The Display Board must be neat and well organized. Each picture, map, or diagram must be labeled. All labels need to be edited, and all spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization errors must be eliminated.

Display Boards should include: Pictures of the Country you have selected. At least one picture of the Country is required. Multiple pictures of the country are recommended.

A current **map** of the country is required. Several maps may be included. These may show historic boundaries of the country. Other maps may be thematic based on population or economic themes.

A **timeline** summarizing the country's history must be included. This must include at least six events from all 3 periods of history in the report.

A **flag** of the country must be included.

A **graph** showing information on the country. For example: Percentages of exports, Percentages speaking different languages, Percentages in different religions, Historic trends in population, exports, or gross national product. This should be a pie, bar, or line graph.

Food: Information about a food from the country must be included. A description of this food, or a recipe for it must be included on the display board.

Extra Credit: In addition servings of this food should be brought and provided for the class presentations. There should be enough to share with the teacher, and the rest of the 6th Grade class. This is for extra credit and is not required.

A **list of at least 5 interesting facts** about the country must also be included. This can be in the form of a table if you choose.

Additional national symbols may be included: These are optional.

There should be **at least nine different items** on the display board. This could include multiple pictures, maps, timelines, graphs, food, facts, and national symbols.

Country Display Board Rubric

Requirement	Pts Possible	Pts Awarded	Comments
<u>General Display Requirements:</u>			
Title (Name of Country)& Student Name	5		
Neat Organized Display	10		
Correct Spell, Gram, Capital, Punc	10		
All items labeled	10		
<u>Specific Display Board Requirements (At least 9 items):</u>			
Picture of Country (at least 1)	10		
Current Map of Country	5		
Summary Timeline of Country's History	10		
Flag of Country	5		
Graph of Country Data	10		
Food Description or Recipe	10		
List of Interesting Facts (At least 5)	5		
Additional Items on Board (At least 2)	10		
<u>Extra Credit: Food</u>			
	Up to +10EC		
<u>Additional Considerations:</u>			
<u>Total:</u>			
	100		

Country Oral Presentation

The purpose of your Oral Presentation is to educate the class on the country you've investigated. Now that you are the expert, you get to teach us about your country. This Oral Presentation should be between 2 and 4 minutes in length. (If the presentation is less than 2 minutes or longer than 5 minutes, your grade will be decreased.) It is not a requirement that you memorize the talk. You may use note cards for the talk, but it should be rehearsed and a polished presentation. It is not to be just read to the class. Note cards are required and must be turned into the teacher after the presentation is over. They will be returned with your grade.

Remember important Oral Presentation skills. Voice volume, speed, and clarity are vital. Eye contact is also a priority. Practice your talk to avoid using "Uhms," "Ahs," "Likes," and "you knows."

Costumes are required for the Oral Presentation. The Display Board will be used to present key elements to the class. Appropriate props can also be used for the presentation.

The **Oral Presentation** should include the following elements:

1. Introduction
2. Location and Geography
 - a. Capital
 - b. Major Cities
3. Population
 - c. Major ethnic groups
 - d. Languages spoken
4. Government and Economy
5. National symbols
 - e. Flag
 - f. bird, flower, animal, rock, song, etc. (as are available and you decide are appropriate)
6. Culture
 - g. Religion
 - h. Art
 - i. Architecture
7. Country's History
 - a. Ancient History (Before 400 A.D.)
 - b. Middle Age History (400 A.D.-1700 A.D.)
 - c. Modern History (1700 A.D. to Present)
8. Additional interesting facts – surprising things you discover as a result of your research.
9. Reason Country Selected
10. Conclusion

In order to cover all of the material in the time given, some items may be combined and summarized.

Country Oral Presentation Rubric

Requirement	Pts Possible	Pts Awarded	Comments
<u>Oral Presentation:</u>	20		
Voice (Volume, Speed, Clarity)			
Voice Modulation / Not Monotone			
Eye Contact			
No Ums, Ahs, Likes, You-knows			
<u>Use of Visual Aids:</u>			
Costume – Approp. for Country	10		
Display Board & Props	5		
Note cards	5		
<u>Sections Included:</u>			
Introduction	5		
Location and Geography	5		
Population	5		
Government/Economy	10		
National Symbols	5		
Culture	5		
Country's History	10		
Interesting Facts / Stories	5		
Reason Country Chosen	5		
Conclusion	5		
<u>Additional Considerations:</u>			
<u>Total:</u>	100		

Important Dates for Country Research Report

Select Country	Mon., 11/2/09
Begin Country Research	Week of 11/2/09
Check out book from library on country	Week of 11/2/09
Annotated Bibliography	Edited Draft Due Thurs., 12/3
Country Research Report	Edited Draft Due Wed., 1/6
History Day – Final Report, Display Board, and Oral Presentation	Due Thurs., 1/28/10

Planned Work Days for History Report

Thursday, 11/5	Computer available
Thursday, 11/12	No computer available – Minimum Day
Thursday, 11/19	Computer available
Thursday, 12/3	Computer available
Thursday, 12/10	Computer available
Week of 12/14	No computer available

Additional time when other History assignments are completed

Students are welcome to come and work in Mrs. Mangan's room after school on their Country Report.