Stonegate Elementary  
Fifth Grade State Research Project

The state research project will consist of three parts. All three parts are outlined below. Please keep all of your research materials, notes, and this packet in the writing section of your binder at all times.

Part I: State Brochure
You will be creating a state brochure using the Microsoft Publisher program. A template will be provided for you. Your brochure will consist of six sections. All of which are briefly described below. You will find a more precise expectation of what should be on each page of your brochure on your “Research Notes” page. Every student will be researching and writing about the following four areas:

✓ Geography/Weather and Climate (pg. 2)
  Write about the geography and climate of your state. Include a physical map with the state capital and the major cities. Include a map or chart about one of the following: Average rainfall (precipitation) or Average temperatures (summer and winter).

✓ History/State Background (pg. 3)
  Write about the history of your state. Describe the earliest inhabitants and how they contributed to the establishment and development of your state.

✓ Places to Visit/Historical Sites (pg. 6)
  Write about the most interesting places to visit and be sure to include historical attractions.

✓ Cover Page: A Persuasive Essay (pg. 1)
  Persuade the readers of your brochure to “drop everything” and book the next flight to visit your state. What is so intriguing and exciting about your state?

In addition to the four areas listed above you will choose two of the options listed below to research and add to your state brochure.

✓ Economy (pg. 4 or 5)
  Write about the natural resources/agriculture/products that are prominent in your state and describe any industries that help make your state unique.

✓ Education/Government (pg. 4 or 5)
  Describe the government within your state and include colleges and universities within your state.

✓ Famous Americans (pg. 4 or 5)
  Write about presidents/politicians, performers, athletes (or any other public figure) from your state.

✓ Trivia (pg. 4 or 5)
  Provide interesting trivia about your state.

Each page of your brochure will include a well-written paragraph unless otherwise noted. Accurate information, correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation are expected.

Please keep track of the resources that you use. You must gather your research from at least one book and at least two valid websites. You must turn in a typed bibliography using www.bibme.com.
Part II: Display
The fifth grade will set up a “State Fair” in the MPR. We will invite other classes to our “State Fair” so students can learn about the different states in our country.

Project Board: You will receive a small project board that you will be designing. This project board will be the backdrop of your state display. You will be designing a state poster in class and this poster must be on your project board. The rest of the design will be up to you and it will be completed at home. Below are a few ideas that will make your project board interesting:

✓ Your state name in bold font (mandatory)
✓ State motto
✓ State flower, bird, etc.
✓ Images from the internet or photographs
✓ Maps
✓ Images of state flag
✓ Brochures that you received from the tourism board
✓ The ideas are endless

State Float: A state float is made using a shoebox. The shoebox should be turned upside-down and decorated just like a float in a parade. Traditional shoeboxes are best! Please do not use boot boxes or shoeboxes from oversized shoes. Below is a list of required items to be included on your state float. These items may be 2-dimensional (drawn, photographed, or printed from a computer). They may also be 3-dimensional objects that are hand-made by the student, such as a clay pineapple for Hawaii; or poppies made from yellow and orange tissue paper for California; manufactured such as a plastic orange for Florida; or real such as a potato for Idaho.

The float must include the following items:

✓ Name of state
✓ State flag
✓ A map of the state
✓ Something that your state is famous for
✓ State nickname

You must also pick at least two of the following to include on your float:

✓ State flower
✓ State tree
✓ State bird
✓ State animal
✓ State symbol
✓ State industry

Students should do most of the research and work necessary to complete this project, but families are welcome to help and provide support.

State Memorabilia: (optional) Start collecting memorabilia or souvenirs from your state. Ask friends or family members if they have anything special to share. This memorabilia will be used to enhance your overall display during our “State Fair.”

Region Map: You will be creating a Region Map of the United States of America. This will be completed in class.

Part III: Persuasive Speech: You will prepare a two-minute persuasive speech about your state. The purpose of this speech is to entice others to visit your state. During our “State Fair” you will need to be able to talk about your state and answer any questions your “audience” may have. You need to be prepared and able to respond to others in a persuasive manner.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Task Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Choices</td>
<td>1/10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write and Mail Business Letter</td>
<td>2/15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary State Research (Encyclopedia Britannica Handout)</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Research Notes” Page</td>
<td>3/18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography Page</td>
<td>5/10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Get to Know Your State” worksheet</td>
<td>3/15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brochure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft: Handwritten Essay</td>
<td>3/22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Geography/Weather and Climate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• History/State Background</td>
<td>3/29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Places to Visit/Historical Sites</td>
<td>4/12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Free Choice #1</td>
<td>4/19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Free Choice #2</td>
<td>4/26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cover Page: Persuasive Essay</td>
<td>5/3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final: Revised/Edited/Typed in Microsoft Publisher</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Geography/Weather and Climate</td>
<td>3/29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• History/State Background</td>
<td>4/12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Places to Visit/Historical Sites</td>
<td>4/19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Free Choice #1</td>
<td>4/26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Free Choice #2</td>
<td>5/3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cover Page: Persuasive Essay</td>
<td>5/10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brochure is Complete and Ready to Print</td>
<td>5/17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State Fair</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persuasive Speech for State Fair</td>
<td>5/17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Poster</td>
<td>5/10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Float (completed at home)</td>
<td>5/20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Display Board (completed at home)</td>
<td>5/21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional: Display Items (memorabilia, magazines, souvenirs)</td>
<td>5/22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>