You will be required to do research about a specific state on a variety of different topics and present the information through a written, visual, and oral presentation. You will be required to create a State Notebook containing the mandatory pages plus 2 optional pages that you chose. All written parts of the project need to be completed in your own words and not copied directly from a website or book. Written parts of the project can be handwritten or typed.

All State Projects are due on Friday, February 8th 2013

After completing your State Notebook, you will give an oral presentation based on your research.

My oral presentation date is

This is an at home and in school project. You will have 3 work days in school where the whole Social Studies class period will be used for working on your project. The school work days are:

_______________________________________
_______________________________________
_______________________________________

State Notebook Requirements:

| Cover Page: Name of the state, student’s name, teacher’s name, homeroom, and date (see example) |
| Research: 12 mandatory research pages and 2 optional research pages (see below) |
| Additional pages: Additional illustration or information pages (choose 3) |
| Labeling: Each page must be clearly labeled to indicate what mandatory or optional requirement you want it to count towards |
| Other: Report must be typed (size 12 font) or handwritten in blue or black pen |

Mandatory Research Pages (Complete all 12)

1. State Seal: Illustration including a brief written explanation (in your own words) explaining the symbolic meaning of each component of the seal

2. State Flag: Illustration including a brief written explanation (in your own words) of its history as well as the meaning of each component on the flag

3. State Bird: Colored illustration including the name of the bird and any additional information about the bird

4. State Flower: Colored illustration including the name of the flower and any additional information about the flower
5. **Natural Resources:** Include information about water, soil, minerals, plants, and animals

6. **Historical Facts:** Include research on first known inhabitants, exploration, and settlement, how the state got its name, how it became a state and when it became a state (date and number – year: 1960/50th state)

7. **Climate:** Include high and low temperatures, average annual rainfall and other important weather information

8. **State Map:** Include a physical and political map of your state

9. **Political Features:** Include population, number of counties, and major highways

10. **Historical Sites/National Parks/Landmarks:** Name a minimum of 3 national/historical parks, battlefields, memorials, monuments, historical sites, and/or major attractions. Choose your favorite one and write a minimum of one paragraph (5-7 sentences) describing it and why you would like to visit there.

11. **Physical Features (Land/Water Forms):** Name and describe the major land regions. Include the lowest and highest points in the state, and ranking in size in the United States

12. **Song or Poem:** You can create your own song or poem about your state, or you can look for a song or poem about your state (make sure to include the composer or author of the song/poem)

**Optional Research Pages (choose 1)**

1. **Postcards:** Gather postcards (official publications or hand-made) from your state and arrange them in a collage

2. **Photos/Captions:** Arrange photographs (actual photos or printed from the Internet) on your page with a caption to describe each photo and its significance to your state

3. **Famous people (past or present):** Include a picture and a written explanation in your own words as to why each person is famous

4. **Brochures:** Official publication or hand-made brochure for your state or for a landmark located in your state

**Oral Presentation Requirements**

You will be required to present your State Notebook to the class on the date you were assigned. During your presentation, you may also share any interesting facts or information about your state. For extra credit, you can present a cultural aspect through song, dance, dress up, or food that is unique to your state.
Dear Parents,

As we continue to learn about the geography of the United States through each of the 5 regions, each student will be responsible for completing a State Notebook project for one of the 50 United States (excluding Pennsylvania) chosen at random. The State Notebook is due on Friday, February 8, 2013. Students will lose 5 points for each day the project is late. Students will also be presenting their projects orally during the week of February 11, 2013. The rubric and project information was handed out today and explained. The same information can be found on our teacher web pages. If you could please sign and return the bottom portion of this letter to school by Wednesday, January 16, 2013. If you have any questions regarding the project, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs. DiRocco & Mrs. Greczek
5th Grade Social Studies Teachers

We have received and reviewed the State Notebook project and presentation information and are aware the project is due on Friday, February 8, 2013.

Students Name _____________________________________________  State __________________________

Students Signature __________________________________________  Teacher ________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature _____________________________________________  Date ______________

Dear Parents,

As we continue to learn about the geography of the United States through each of the 5 regions, each student will be responsible for completing a State Notebook project for one of the 50 United States (excluding Pennsylvania) chosen at random. The State Notebook is due on Friday, February 8, 2013. Students will lose 5 points for each day the project is late. Students will also be presenting their projects orally during the week of February 11, 2013. The rubric and project information was handed out today and explained. The same information can be found on our teacher web pages. If you could please sign and return the bottom portion of this letter to school by Wednesday, January 16, 2013. If you have any questions regarding the project, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Students Name _____________________________________________  State __________________________

Students Signature __________________________________________  Teacher ________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature _____________________________________________  Date ______________
State Notebook Project and Presentation Rubric

| Category            | All 5 requirements with an illustration of the state | All 5 requirements with no illustration; or 4 out of 5 requirements with an illustration | 2 requirements missing; with our without illustration | 3 requirements missing; with or without illustration | _______/10 |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|________/10 |
| Front Cover (10 points) | 10 points                                              | 8 points                                                                            | 6 points                                              | 0-4 points                                           |________/10 |
| Content (20 points)   | All 12 mandatory pages completed and at least 2 optional pages | All 12 mandatory pages completed and 1 additional page | At least 11 mandatory pages completed and 1 additional page | At least 9-10 mandatory pages completed | _______/20 |
| Format (20 points)    | Excellent page layouts, headings, and overall appearance | Above average page layouts, headings, and overall appearance | Average page layouts, headings, and overall appearance | Below average page layouts, headings, and overall appearance | _______/20 |
| Spelling/Grammar (10 points) | 2 or less spelling/grammar errors in your notebook | 3-5 spelling/grammar errors in your notebook | 6-8 spelling/grammar errors in your notebook | 9 or more spelling/grammar errors in your notebook | _______/10 |
| Neatness and Effort (10 points) | Neat, free from distracting errors, assembled well, colorful, and very detailed | Neat and has almost no errors, above average assembly, colorful, and detailed | Somewhat neat, has several eraser marks, average assembly; lacking color and details | Messy with many errors, poor assembly, lacking color and details | _______/10 |
| Oral Report (30 points) | Excellent and at least 3-4 minutes in length | Very good and at least 2-3 minutes in length | Good and at least 1-2 minutes in length | Fair and at least 1 minute in length | _______/30 |
| Total Points          |                                                      |                                                    |                                                      |                                                      |________/100 |