

Gale Lesson Plan

World History In Context: Historical Figure Research

GRADE LEVEL: 9-10

SUBJECT/CONTENT: Social Studies (World History)

SUMMARY OF LESSON: Students will research a significant historical figure and compose journals based on their research.

FOCUS QUESTION: What are the thoughts, motives, emotions, and experiences of historical figures?

RESOURCE: *World History In Context*

TIME FRAME: 4-5 class periods

LEARNING EXPECTATIONS: Students will use their research skills to uncover information about historical figures. They will also use their creativity to try to understand how these figures must have felt during critical points in their careers and lives.

PROCEDURES:

Steps/Activities by the Teacher:

- Ask students to think about historical figures who have made major contributions to the world.
- Have students pick a historical figure to research. You may want to limit the students to a certain time period or to a specific event.
- Approve students' choices before allowing them to start their research.
- Direct students to *World History In Context*.
- Provide students with copies of the directions and notes sheets (provided below).
- After students have completed their research, give them time to write six journal entries describing significant events in their subject's life. These journals should be from the perspective of the historical figure.
- Allow students time to write a brief paper that explains the overall historical significance of their chosen figure. This paper will be part of a class presentation that provides an overview of each individual's life.
- Remind students that they can include visual aids in their presentations such as charts, pictures, and time lines.
- Provide class time for students to give their presentations.

Steps/Activities by Student(s):

- Think about a historical figure in the world who interests you. You may choose someone you are familiar with or someone you wish to learn more about. Review your selection with your teacher.
- After your teacher approves your historical figure, use *World History In Context* to find information about your subject. Use the instructions listed on the direction sheet to help you complete your assignment.
- Keep track of the sources you use. You will need to hand in a bibliography at the end of this assignment. You can use the **Citations** tool in *World History In Context* to easily cite your sources and export all of your citations for your bibliography.

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- Take careful notes on the notes sheet provided by your teacher. These notes will count toward your final grade. Also, use the **Highlights and Notes** feature in *World History In Context* to keep track of important details about your figure. When you have completed your research, send the articles you used to your Google Drive or Microsoft OneDrive. You can also send a summary of your Highlights and Notes (digital notecards) to Google Drive or Microsoft OneDrive—click the More button, select Highlights and Notes, and then choose Send to Google Drive or Send to OneDrive.
- Create six journal entries from the perspective of your subject that explain important events in his or her life. While most of these entries should be based on facts you uncover, you should use your creativity to explain the emotions your subject may have experienced. Each journal entry should be two to three paragraphs in length and must be based on the research you have conducted.
- Complete a brief (1 page) paper about your subject. This paper will be part of a class presentation about your historical figure. Your presentation may also include visual aids such as charts, pictures, and time lines.
- When you give your presentation, turn in your notes, six journal entries, paper, and bibliography.

OUTCOME: Students will gain a better understanding of the emotions, goals, and motivations of important historical figures.

RELATED ACTIVITIES:

English

Put students into groups of six. Have students write a skit about one of the historical figures presented in class. Remind students that the skit should clearly illustrate how the subject made a significant contribution to society. Encourage each group to perform their skit for the rest of the class.

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Historical Figure Research Project

The Task:

Choose a historical figure from the world to research. Review your selection with your teacher. You will use your research to create six journal entries from the historical figure's perspective as well as a short paper and class presentation.

The Steps

1. After your subject has been approved by your teacher, begin your research using *World History in Context*. You will need to turn in a formal bibliography, so be sure to keep track of the sources you use. You can use the **Citations** tool in *World History In Context* to easily cite and export all of your citations for your bibliography.
2. Take notes using the notes sheet provided by your teacher. Make sure your notes are clear and accurate as they will count toward your final grade. Also, use the **Highlights and Notes** feature in *World History In Context* to keep track of important details about your figure. When you have completed your research, send the articles you used to your Google Drive or Microsoft OneDrive. You can also send a summary of your Highlights and Notes (digital notecards) to Google Drive or Microsoft OneDrive—click the More button, select Highlights and Notes, and then choose Send to Google Drive or Send to OneDrive.
3. Use your research to create six journal entries that describe some of the most significant experiences in the life of your subject. These entries should be written from the perspective of the historical figure you have chosen. While you should base these entries on historical fact, you should use your creativity to describe the emotions and motivations of your historical figure when writing about significant experiences in his or her life. Each journal entry must be two to three paragraphs long and must be based on your research.
4. You may include graphics and pictures as part of your journal entries.
5. Write a brief (1 page) paper that explains the overall historical significance of this person. This paper will be part of a class presentation that provides an overview of the life of your subject, including their historical significance. Your presentation may also include visual aids such as charts, pictures, or time lines.
6. When you give your presentation, turn in your notes, six journal entries, paper, and bibliography.

Grading

See the attached rubric for further details and grading guidelines.

Historical Figure Research Notes

Event & Year	Description	Significance	Source Citation

Historical Figure Research Grading Rubric

Task	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Par	Incomplete
Research Notes—Accurate and thorough	5	4	3	2	1
Bibliography—3 sources minimum and correct format	5	4	3	2	1
Diary Entries—Accurate research, in your own words, thoughtful, creative	5	4	3	2	1
Significance Writing—Accurate and thoughtful	5	4	3	2	1
Class Presentation—Accurate, interesting, practiced	5	4	3	2	1
Spelling and grammar	5	4	3	2	1
Overall effort and depth	5	4	3	2	1

Total _____/35