Western Expansion

Project Based Learning Assignment

Overview:

This project will require you to work individually or with other students to create a product that requires you to extend your knowledge of Westward Expansion in the United States. You will be required to create a project plan (which divides the work evenly between members), explains what you will be creating, how you will demonstrate your knowledge of Westward Expansion, how long you expect it to take, what research you will be doing to expand your knowledge, and what I should expect from your final product. You may work alone, with a partner, or in a group, depending on the project you choose, but it is important to note that all members of the group will be graded based on their contribution to the final product. Students will be asked to grade their peers contribution, and I will be watching to see who is working and who is freeloading. It is possible for one person in a group to receive an A grade while another receives an F grade, based upon their contribution to the project. You may choose from any of the projects below, or you may complete a different project, if your idea is approved by your teacher and will demonstrate your knowledge of the Westward Expansion Unit. If you have a project idea, please talk to your teacher about it.

Topics that you may decide to research: Oregon Trail, Indian Removal Act, Texas Revolution, Louisiana Purchase, California Gold Rush, Lewis and Clark Expedition, Pike's Expedition, Sacagawea, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, John Tyler, War of 1812, Erie Canal, National Road, Jim Bowie, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, Davy Crockett, William Travis, Sam Houston, etc.

Project Ideas:

A. Create a poster board sized map of the United States. Map the many routes to the west that we have learned about in this unit. (Group Size: 2)

1. Students must research the map routes west during Westward Expansion.

2. Students must write a paper that shares your research on the different routes. One paragraph per trail researched.

3. Students will create a poster sized map of the U.S. with each route mapped accurately.

B. Write a play to perform in front of the class. Each member should participate equally in all phases of the project. (Group size: 3 Max)

1. You must research a topic relevant to the Westward Expansion unit that has been approved by the teacher.

2. The play must be written by the group. It must include a written script (including blocking) that will be turned in. It must be free of grammatical errors.

3. The play and script must include: narrator, setting, acts, scenes, a list of characters, and a plot surrounding the historical facts/details of your researched topic. The play could have 1 act with 3 scenes, or 3 acts with 1 scene each.

4. The performance should be well rehearsed, it should be a compelling and accurate depiction of a researched topic or event, and should be 3-5 minutes in length. Your performance will be recorded.

C. Create an iMovie that explains a topic relevant to Westward Expansion. Include important events, people, wars, acquisitions, etc. (Group size: 3 Max)

1. You must research a topic relevant to the Westward Expansion unit that has been approved by the teacher.

2. You must write a summary of what you learned from your research.

3. You must create an iMovie that summarizes your research and teaches your research topic to others. It should be a minimum of 3 minutes in length, include pictures, video of students, captions, and student voice recording. It should demonstrate a supreme knowledge of the topic being discussed, and should be very informative. It should expand the knowledge of those who watch. BE CREATIVE!

D. Create a diorama of a scene from the expedition of Lewis and Clark. This project will not allow groups.

1. Research the Lewis and Clark expedition. Determine a scene from the journey that you would like to recreate.

2. Write a paper that describes the scene in detail. What is happening? Where are they? Who are they with? Tell me the story of your scene.

3. Create your diorama. It should be well constructed, and it should accurately depict the scene you described in your paper.

E. Create a PowerPoint Presentation or Prezi based on an aspect of Western Expansion that you have approved with your teacher. You may work individually or in pairs.

1. Decide on a topic from Westward Expansion that you would like to research. Your topic must be approved by the teacher.

2. Research your topic.

3. Create a PowerPoint Presentation or Prezi that you will use to teach the topic to the class. The presentation must be a minimum of 12 slides and your presentation should be 15-20 minutes in length.

4. Make sure to include all relevant information from your research.

F. Write a formal essay in which you research a person or event from the Western Expansion Unit that you have approved with your teacher.

1. Decide on a topic related to Westward Expansion that you would like to research and get your topic approved by the teacher.

2. Conduct research on the topic.

3. Write a formal paper that is a minimum of 2 pages typed. This paper should be well organized, and include the information you learned from your research.

G. Build a Website on Weebly.com based on a topic related to Westward Expansion that has been approved by the teacher.

1. Decide on a topic related to Westward Expansion that you would like to research and get your topic approved by the teacher.
2. Conduct research on the topic.
3. Build a website that includes written articles about your topic. Your website is meant to educate others. You are building an educational tool.
4. The website should include multiple pages with articles you have written, links to sites related to your topic that others can visit to further their education, youtube videos embedded in the site, and pictures. The website should look professional, like the classroom website.
5. Your website will be created under Mr. Perkins’ account and will be a private website that no one will be able to see. The only people that will be able to access your website is you when you log in, and the teacher when he logs in.

PBL Westward Expansion Project Plan

List all of the people in your group.

What type of project will you be completing? (iMovie, Powerpoint, Prezi, Poster Map, etc)

What topic will you be researching? (Oregon Trail, Louisiana Purchase, etc.)

What are the major questions that you will be answering through your research?

How will you divide the work? Develop a plan of attack and share it below.

What research will you be doing to expand your knowledge of your subject matter?

How long will it take to create your project, and what should I expect from your final project?