

Where in the World is Your Neighborhood?



Brief Description

Maps serve a very specific purpose whether it be to help someone locate something, to help with planning, or to make one familiar with their surroundings.

Product

You will create a scale map of the neighborhood and its surroundings. You will include things such as landmarks, a scale, compass rose, and other features found on most maps. You will have to learn what these features are and then translate them into a map that correctly represents your neighborhood. The map may be made of anything you choose but an explanation or legend must be provided.

Content Area

Social Studies

Learning Objective(s)

Use cardinal and intermediate directions to describe the relative location of places.

Inspiration Starting Point

Social Studies book on map features

Estimated Time of Project

Two to three weeks

Suggested Materials

Whatever you decide to make your map out of will need materials for.

There is Two Sides to Every Story

Brief Description

History has a funny way of taking the same event and interpreting it differently. For example, the American Revolution would look very different taken from the perspective of someone who is from the United States and someone from England.



Product

You will read two biographies, both on the same historical figure. You will compare and contrast these biographies and conclude why there are some differences in the way the author wrote about the person's life. This comparison can be in a paper, charts, Venn diagram, etc.

Content Area

Social Studies/English

Learning Objective(s)

Describe how historians study and interpret the past.
Compare and contrast information on a single topic or theme across different texts.

Inspiration Starting Point

Read the **The True Story of the Three Little Pigs** by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith

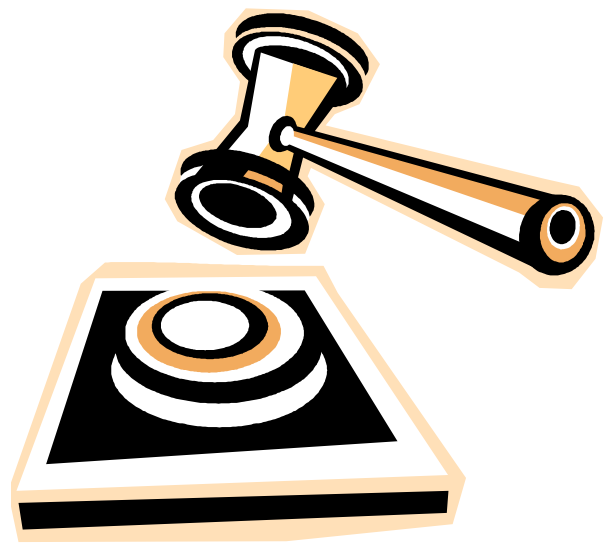
Estimated Time of Project

Two to three weeks depending on the length of the biographies

Suggested Materials

Two approved biographies of a historical figure

You Be the Judge



Brief Description

How does the court system work in the United States? We often see people go straight from crime to serving time, but what happens in between? How is the court system set up and is it an effective way to seek justice?

Product

You will investigate how the judicial branch interprets and applies the law. This may involve a fieldtrip to a courthouse to observe how an actual trial takes place. Your product needs to show why we need a judicial system in the first place and evaluate how effective it is.

Content Area

Social Studies

Learning Objective(s)

Explain major responsibilities of the judicial branch interprets and applies the law.

Inspiration Starting Point

Read a chapter from **You Are the Juror**

Estimated Time of Project

Three weeks

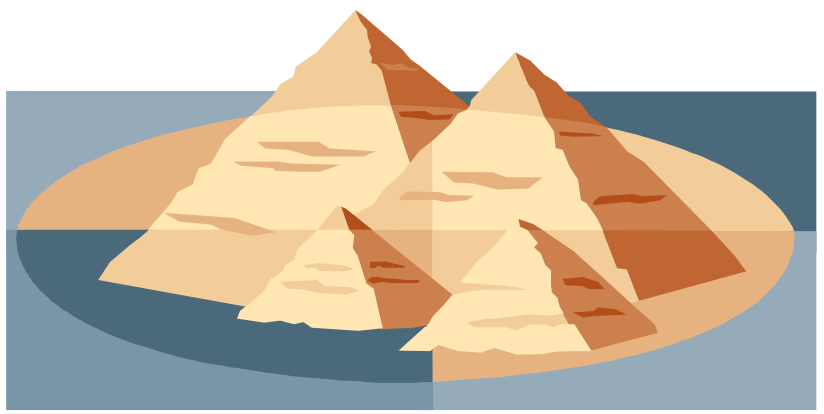
Suggested Materials

Notebook to take notes

Books on the court room procedures

U.S. Constitution

Seven Wonders of the World



Brief Description

Out of the seven wonders of the ancient world, only the Pyramids of Giza still exist today. What made these structures a wonder and what purpose did they serve?

Product

You will research the ancient seven wonders of the world and why they are a wonder. Then you will create a list of what you believe to be the seven modern wonders of the world, explaining why you chose the structures that you did and will they last for centuries as the pyramids have. You may create models of these structures to aid in your explanation.

Content Area

Social Studies/English

Learning Objective(s)

Formulate a question to focus research.

List questions and search for answers within the text to construct meaning.

Inspiration Starting Point

Watch PowerPoint Presentation called The Seven Wonders of the World

Estimated Time of Project

Two weeks

Suggested Materials

Books on the seven wonders of the world

Books on architectural wonder of the modern world

Money, Money, Money



Brief Description

Money has been around in various forms for a very long time. What are the advantages to having money? Are there better ways for us to buy and sell items? How will money evolve in the future?

Product

You will look at the way people get and use money. Is there a better way to buy and sell items without exchanging money? Why do most people use credit cards now instead of cash? With the advent of online shopping and the fact that the penny may soon become obsolete, we need to think of a new way to obtain and use money. You will create a story or scenario in the future where people have created a new way to obtain and use money.

Content Area

Social Studies

Learning Objective(s)

Explain ways in which individuals and households obtain and use money.

Inspiration Starting Point

Watch the PowerPoint Presentation The History of Money

Estimated Time of Project

One week

Suggested Materials

Research materials on the history of money

The Lemonade Stand

Brief Description

Businesses are formed in order to sell products or services in order to make a profit for the person owning the business. They also provide valuable products or services that the public may or may not need. There are many businesses in our city that do this very thing.



Product

If you were to start your own business, what would you start and why? What are some things you could do to ensure success and avoid failure? How would your business compete against other like-businesses? Why would people buy your product or services over others?

Content Area

Social Studies

Learning Objective(s)

Identify the productive resources needed to produce a good or service and suggest opportunity costs for the resources involved. Explain how entrepreneurs organize productive resources to produce goods and services and that they seek to make profits by taking risks.

Inspiration Starting Point

Watch video on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgp5_8ETbbw

Estimated Time of Project

Two to three weeks

Suggested Materials

Internet access

I'm Just a Bill

Brief Description

How do certain laws come to be? Why are there different rules for different communities? Looking at the laws of our city, how do they become laws? Are there some that are unfair and others that are missing and needed?



Product

You will look at how the town council functions and the powers they have. This may involve a visit to a council meeting. Or take a look at the rules your school has. Do you think these rules make sense and our fair? How do these laws get passed? Most importantly, why do you suppose they have certain laws?

Content Area

Social Studies

Learning Objective(s)

Explain major responsibilities of the legislative branch, headed by the General Assembly, and how they make laws.

Inspiration Starting Point

Watch video Schoolhouse Rocks "I'm Just a Bill"

Estimated Time of Project

One to two weeks

Suggested Materials

Copy of laws in your city and school

Transportation to a local city council meeting or an interview with the principal

The Role of Citizenship

Brief Description

Citizens in a community have many roles to play. They work here, vote here, and should take care of the community.



Product

This project will involve you creating a community service project to better either the school or the community around you. What can you do to make things better for your community? You need to come up with an idea and then organize it so that the community is made better.

Content Area

Social Studies

Learning Objective(s)

Describe the ways in which citizens can promote the common good and influence their government including performing voluntary service.

Explain why personal responsibilities and civic responsibilities are important.

Inspiration Starting Point

What do you think makes a good citizen?

Estimated Time of Project

Two weeks to a month

Suggested Materials

Anything you would need to complete your community service project

Supply and Demand

Brief Description

What makes a baseball card worth more than another? What are some items considered collectables while others called junk? How do we determine what products will be a success and which ones not so much?

Product

You will study the economic concept of supply and demand and how it causes the economy to go round and round. You may also look at collectibles such as trading cards, dolls, toys, etc. to see what trends supply and demand cause.

Content Area

Social Studies

Learning Objective(s)

Explain why people specialize in what they produce and then trade with others, which then increases the amount of good and services available.

Inspiration Starting Point

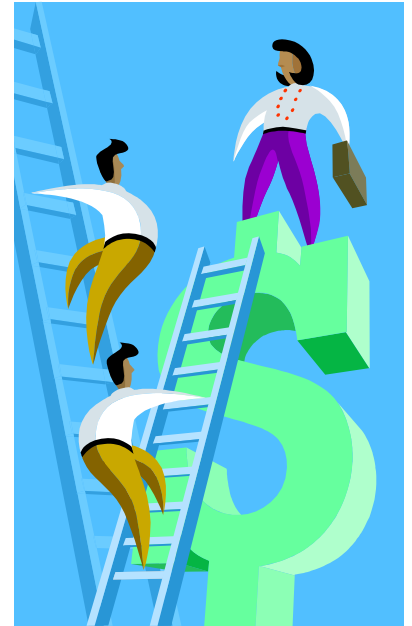
Go on eBay and look up Pez dispensers. See how much some are selling for.

Estimated Time of Project

Two weeks

Suggested Materials

Internet access to eBay to see how supply and demand works firsthand



How Authentic is Authentic Food?

Brief Description

There are many ethnic restaurants who sell food from a certain nationality. Taco Bell sells Mexican food, Panda Express has Chinese food, Olive Garden has an Italian menu, and others.



Product

Choose a restaurant and study the culture of the country it claims to represent. You will look at the menu and determine how authentic the food really is from this research. This will probably involve a visit to the restaurant to try a meal.

Content Area

Social Studies

Learning Objective(s)

Use problem-solving/decision-making process which includes identifying a problem, gathering information, listing and considering options, choosing a solution, and developing criteria for judging its effectiveness.

Inspiration Starting Point

Look over the menu from Olive Garden and compare with Fazoli's.

Estimated Time of Project

Three weeks

Suggested Materials

Research materials on the country you are studying
Menu from the restaurant you are analyzing

Amish Paradise



Brief Description

Could you imagine living with no electricity? That would mean no television, no music, no computer, no air conditioning. How about no telephone? Couldn't call your friends or even order a pizza. Sounds like a situation one hundred years ago but it's happening right now. The Amish do not use technology of any kind including cars, phones, and electricity.

Product

Look into this culture and why they live the way they do. It is a way of life you think you could do yourself? Come up with a demonstration or skit of how the Amish live compared to your own life. Try living like someone from the Amish culture for a single day and analyze how different your life is from theirs.

Content Area

Social Studies

Learning Objective(s)

Describe the cultural practices and products of various groups who have settled including Amish populations.

Inspiration Starting Point

Look through book "Our Amish Neighbors"

Estimated Time of Project

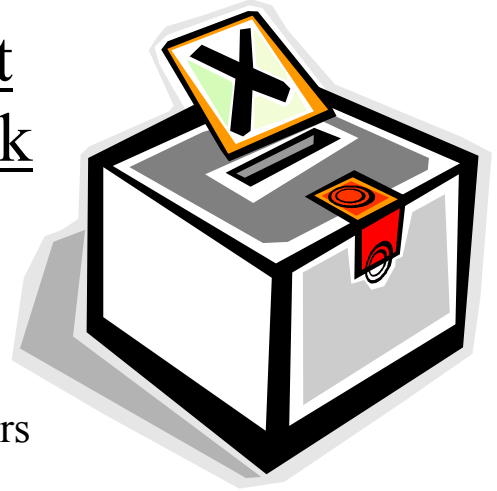
Two to three weeks

Suggested Materials

Research on Amish culture

Materials to give your demonstration or skit

Sure He's a Great Leader but Can He Chew Gum and Walk at the Same Time?



Brief Description

This November the nation will be making some tough decisions on who will be the leaders of our government.

Product

You will choose an election either local or state and evaluate the candidate running for the position. What are their qualifications and do they have what it takes to be a good leader? Also look at the election process and determine if this is the best way to determine a qualified leader? If there a better way you can create? You will analyze this and present it to the class.

Content Area

Social Studies

Learning Objective(s)

Explain why elections are used to select leaders and decide issues. Explain why characteristics such as respect for the rights of others, fairness, reliability, honesty, wisdom, and courage are desirable qualities in the people citizens select as their leaders.

Inspiration Starting Point

Look at who might be running for major offices in your state.

Estimated Time of Project

Two to three weeks

Suggested Materials

Newspaper and magazine articles on the candidates

Scrapping Time



Brief Description

Time happens in a very linear fashion, going from day to day, month to month, years to year, and so on.

It is almost like you are reading it in a book.

Scrapbooks capture the memories of people using pictures, captions, and other objects.

Product

You will select an historical event or time period and create a scrapbook that chronicles this using a pictorial timeline. You will need to explain what the events are and why they are important to the event. Use your creativity to dress the pages up and bring them to life.

Content Area

Social Studies

Learning Objective(s)

Construct time lines with evenly spaced intervals for years, decades, and centuries to show the order of significant events.

Inspiration Starting Point

Look at the example scrapbook

Estimated Time of Project

Two to three weeks

Suggested Materials

Research on the event

Materials for scrapbooking