

River Dell Regional School District

SUMMER READING/ENRICHMENT

Significant People in History:

Grades 7 & 8 will have the opportunity complete the following assignment:

Below is a list of significant people related to the topics that will be studied in the Social Studies courses throughout the school year. You will choose one person from the list for the course you are going into next year and research that person and their contributions to the historical time and related events. You can use multiple resources including film, videos, biographies, autobiographies, and primary and secondary sources related to the topic. You will then prepare a 2-minute presentation on this person based on the parameters below the chart.

Significant People: Choose 1

| US History & Civics 7 | World Civ. 8 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| John Smith | Jesus Christ |
| Pocahontas | Constantine |
| John Winthrop | Charlemagne |
| Nathaniel Bacon | Muhammad |
| Anne Hutchinson | Suleiman I |
| King Philip | Gregory the Great |
| George Washington | William the Conqueror |
| Benjamin Franklin | King John |
| Sam Adams | Richard the Lionheart |
| Abigail Adams | Thomas Aquinas |
| King George III | Joan of Arc |
| Benedict Arnold | Kublai Khan |
| Alexander Hamilton | Marco Polo |
| | Fujiwara Michinaga |
| | Minamoto Yoritomo |
| | Montezuma |
| | Sapa Inca |
| | Columbus |
| | Cortes |
| | Pizarro |

Research Parameters (for guidance purposes only)

Look at the list above and think about a historical figure that interests you. You may choose someone you are familiar with or someone you wish to learn more about.

As you research this person, consider the following:

1. What were the thoughts, motives, and experiences of this person?
2. How would the history of the world have been affected or “changed” if the person had never lived?

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3. What are other people's opinions of the person? How do other people describe the person?
4. What major world events were going on when this person was alive? How did these events affect the person?
5. What makes this person interesting?
6. Any other question you thought of and want to answer

Presentation Rubric (for guidance purposes only)

| CATEGORY | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Preparedness | Student is completely prepared and has obviously rehearsed. | Student seems pretty prepared but might have needed a couple more rehearsals. | The student is somewhat prepared, but it is clear that rehearsal was lacking. | Student does not seem at all prepared to present. |
| Stays on Topic | Stays on topic all (100%) of the time. | Stays on topic most (99-90%) of the time. | Stays on topic some (89%-75%) of the time. | It was hard to tell what the topic was. |
| Content | Shows a full understanding of the topic. | Shows a good understanding of the topic. | Shows a good understanding of parts of the topic. | Does not seem to understand the topic very well. |
| Comprehension | Student is able to accurately answer almost all questions posed by classmates about the topic. | Student is able to accurately answer most questions posed by classmates about the topic. | Student is able to accurately answer a few questions posed by classmates about the topic. | Student is unable to accurately answer questions posed by classmates about the topic. |