**U.S. History** **Decades Project**

**Objective**: For students to research various aspects of American culture and politics during their assigned decade. This is also an opportunity for students to work on research, communication and presentation skills.

**Directions**:

1. Students will work in groups of 4-5.
2. Each group member will select an aspect(s) of their era (see topics below) to research
3. Each project should include information on the following:
   1. Fashion/Clothing/Hairstyles (men and women)
   2. Music
   3. Entertainment/Recreation/Leisure
   4. Values (Culture, what was important, slang, etc.)
   5. Politics
   6. Economy
   7. Inventions, technology
4. This project should provide the audience with an overall idea of what happened during that decade and what it would be like to live during that time period.
5. After researching the topic, students will need to determine the format the project will take.
6. Different formats that may be used (but are not limited to): Video, display boards, actual artifacts, scrapbook, PowerPoint presentations, slide show, games, demonstrations, or a combination of these formats.
7. Presentations will be due on May 12.
8. The presentation should take 7-10 minutes – it should be an interactive, “lived experience”.

**Project requirements**:

1. Thorough information provided about the assigned decade (2-3 paragraphs per topic – see above)
2. At least 3 different sources (in addition to the textbook) are used for researching the decade (**NOTE: Wikipedia is NOT a valid resource**)
3. All group members must partake in researching and putting the project together – it must be identified who was responsible for what (See attached)
4. The presentation must be multi-media (using different types of content – text, pictures, music, video, PowerPoint, etc.)

**Step 1 - Research and Data**

1. Fashion

* 1. What type of clothing was popular during that time period?
  2. Popular accessories?
  3. Popular hairstyles?
  4. Make sure to illustrate difference between Men and Women and also social classes

1. Music
   1. What type music was popular during that time period?
   2. What musicians were popular?
   3. Try to find specific examples that could be listened to in class
2. Recreation/Leisure
   1. What venue was used for entertainment? (movies, music, television, sports, etc)
   2. Popular activities (dances, games)
   3. Any popular movie stars, sports figures
   4. Food - What was the American diet like?  Popular restaurants and/or meal?  Usually cook at home or dine out? (Bring samples?)
3. Values/culture
   1. What was important to the American people during that time period?
   2. How did they view minorities?
   3. Were there any movements or revolutions during that time period?
   4. Were there any popular sayings or slang?
4. Politics
   1. Who were the presidents during the decade?
   2. Any political scandals?
   3. Any wars?
   4. Major pieces of legislation (Bills, Acts, Laws, Amendments to Constitution)
5. Economy
   1. How was the economy at the time?
   2. What was the unemployment rate?
   3. Were there any shortages?
   4. How was the tax rate?
6. Inventions/Technology
   1. Were there any important/influential inventions that came out of your decade?
   2. How did the inventions impact the American people?

**Step 2 - Project**

1. Determine format of the project/presentation (can include skits, PowerPoints, demonstrations, handouts, overheads, etc.)
2. Include **at least** 2 visual aids
3. Be sure to include maps, graphs, photographs or other visuals to illustrate information about the time
4. The presentation should be multi-media (i.e. video clips, display board, PowerPoint, music from CD or IPod, etc.)
5. **Include list of all group members and what each group member was responsible for what.**
6. The presentation should be a “live experience” – try to be interactive
7. You must be present the day of your presentation!
8. Presentations should take at least 10 minutes.  Have fun and be creative!

**Decades Project - Things you must include in your presentation**

**1920’s-1930’s 1980’s** “Roaring ’20s” Challenger Space Shuttle Flapper HIV/Aids Stock Market Crash Berlin Wall Great Depression Star Wars Dust Bowl Iran-Contra Affair Prohibition Reaganomics Amelia Earhart 1980/84 Olympics Outlaws (Al Capone, Bonnie and Clyde, etc.) Video Games/Rubik’s Cube Lindbergh Kidnapping Punk Rock

**1940’s- 1950’s 1990’s** Bobby Soxers Persian Gulf War Cold War Oklahoma City Bombing McCarthyism Clinton Impeachment Space Race Global Warming Rock and Roll Nirvana Manhattan Project O.J. Simpson Montgomery Princess Diana Death Bus Boycott/Rosa Parks Technological Revolution

**1960’s**

Election of 1960

Election of 1968

Assassinations - Dr. King, JFK, Malcolm X

March on Washington

Moon Shot - Man on the moon

Cuban Missile Crisis

Bay of Pigs

Berlin Wall

British Invasion

Civil Rights Act of 1964

Hippies and Counter Culture

Freedom Riders

1968 Olympics

Charles Manson

**1970’s**

Watergate

OPEC - oil embargo Helsinki Accords (Gas Shortages)

Iran Hostage Crisis

Disco

Serial Killers

End of Vietnam War

Camp David Accords

No Nukes

Jonestown massacre

**Group Evaluation**

**Group Members:**

**Decade:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Who completed the written section? | Who worked on the presentation? | Who presented the information? |
| Fashion |  |  |  |
| Music |  |  |  |
| Recreation |  |  |  |
| Values |  |  |  |
| Politics |  |  |  |
| Economy |  |  |  |
| Tech/Inventions |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | | Presentation Rubric | |  | |
|  | | Content:  Includes thorough information on all assigned topics of the decade.  Information is clear and accurate. | |  | |
|  | | Multi-media: Students use at least 2 types of mediums during the presentation.  Mediums used were effective. | |  | |
|  | | Visual Aids:  At least 2 visual aids are provided during the presentation.  Aids clearly illustrated information. | |  | |
|  | | Overall Presentation:  Organized and fluent presentation, with use of visual aids, an attention getter, introduction and conclusion.  Students present an engaging presentation that is easy to follow information. | |  | |
|  | |  | |  | |

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_