Lessons of History Webpage

Teacher's Guide

Making this Activity Yours

1.   Choose your topics. Mine are set up for student choice, but you could literally do whatever you want with this.

2.   Choose your activities. The bonus content can be really great differentiated instruction. Choose the ones that will work best for your students. You can make each page on the website more or less involved depending on the students you have and the time you want to use for it.

3.   Choose your guiding questions. Pick guiding questions that align best to the themes of your class and/or the assignment.

4.   Choose your homepage. I leave it blank on purpose. It's probably best for the student to summarize some general theme of "Why study history?" for the homepage that ties together several specific pages from specific time periods. Obviously, the overall question of this page would be a summary of the theme of the project.

5.   Use for different contents. The guiding questions are set up for specific social studies themes related to learning lessons from history, but by changing the guiding questions, this becomes a versatile project for a webpage design that works for any content area (although math might require more creativity since timelines and such don't work as well in math.)

Dead Links or locked content: Please report links that don't have the right share settings to me immediately so I can change them. gilsonnn@fortmillschools.org

Example Websites:
https://sites.google.com/fmsdmail.org/lessonsfromhistory/the-protestant-reformation

This site demonstrates what the website can be. It is not linked in the presentation as an example site because it is more elaborate than what I'd expect a middle school student to create, but it does show the potential of this project.

https://sites.google.com/fmsdmail.org/whystudyhistorydemo/the-protestant-reformation

This site is more typical of what a 7th grade student was able to put together with 3-4 days of class time and finishing some work at home.

Use Agreement

You may use and share this activity with all of your students through Google Classroom.
You may make modifications of this activity for use in your classroom.
You may use all templates contained in this activity for this or any other activity.

You may not share this content with another co-worker unless you have purchased an additional license.
You may not use any of the templates or content for a product sold through TPT or any other website.

This activity primarily runs through a google slide presentation, which functions for students as an interactive webpage. However, you should feel free to make your own copy of the instructions slides to get rid of certain activities if you don't want students to do them or to have too many choices of activities.

Pre-Activity: Review the guiding questions (slide #2) and bonus content (slide #4) to ensure that students have the options that you want them to have. This project gives a lot of options on purpose, but many times students will find this to be overwhelming so focusing their choices at first may be preferable. You may wish to use the simplified presentation at first, and then introduce more opportunities.

Suggested Starting Activities if you don't want to drop it all on students at once: Timeline, Top _____ List, Interactive Map/Clickable Image (see simplified presentation)

Goals:
*The student will see how to use the directions presentation and rubric for the expectations of the assignments. (Teacher model)
*The student will create their website (Teacher led, students follow along steps)
*The student will know how to add text and pictures to their page (Teacher model)
*The student will start to add text and pictures to their page.

Materials:
*Slides 1-3
*Rubric

Day 1: Provide the rubric and the slides presentation in Google Classroom. If you "make a copy for each student" for the rubric, you will be able to grade each student's work separately.

Rubric: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zhfqN5lvbBiM_X_dp5ZmgkumbPp_vVD-_O4cwmysrOc/copy
Full Slides Presentation: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1E7SLQCjw_00zdEoCsekiryE_SWinpMQoPZOR3VeRVMI/copy
Simplified Presentation: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1hKPbf4prBSUTSKmbgXZ4KDypDirN901PmnH1yRHsqzg/copy

1. Show students how to create a new webpage (http://sites.google.com/new) using the + button in the lower right-hand corner
2. Show students how to create a new page. This is to leave the homepage blank for later. (menu on the screen to the right of the page, "Pages"→"+")
3. Show Students how to insert text and pictures onto their website using the insert menu on the right ("Layouts" section). I'd especially focus on the pre-made templates for pictures and text, since they are relatively simple.

For you or the students, you can click on the "Using Google Sites" tab on the instruction powerpoint and access screencast videos about certain features of Google Sites.

Allow students to use the rest of the day to answer the guiding questions (Slide #2) on their webpage, using primarily text and pictures.

Goals:

        *The student will see how to use the differentiated bonus content (Teacher model)

        *The student will develop a plan to relate the bonus content to the guiding questions

        *The student will know how to change the share settings of a slides (Teacher led step-by-step)

Materials:

        *Slides 4-end

Day 2: I normally highlight a specific activity this day. I have found that the "clickable image" is the most interesting and dynamic bonus content that can be added to show information. The other one that naturally fits (and is pretty easy to understand) is the "Top _____ List" slideshow. There are videos embedded on the slide (see bottom left) that show you how to do it. I'd recommend watching the videos first, and making sure you understand how to do them, then showing students.

        There are templates for all 3 of these presentation projects, so students will not have to start from scratch. Encourage them to use the templates and how-to videos.

Goals:
      *The student will see how to add a slides presentation to site (Teacher model)
      *The student will continue working on their site

Materials:
      *Already created content

Day 3: Show students how to insert google slides onto their webpage (using the "Insert Menu" on the right of google sites.)
      Tip: Make sure that they know how to change the share settings of the google slides presentation so that it is appropriate for how you are using it:
            *Shared with you only if you're grading the project
            *Shared with everyone in your domain if other students will see their website for a jigsaw or pair-share activity

      Show students the settings wheel that allows them to change the presentation settings. Timeline and Top _____ List slides may want to use the auto-advance, loop features. The clickable image groups will not want to use it like a slide show.

Goals:
  *The student will publish their website (Teacher led step-by-step)
  *The student will continue working on their website

Materials:

Day 4: Show students how to publish their website. Click on the blue publish button on the top right-hand corner of the screen.
  Tip: Check share settings to make sure that the people who need to see the site will have access.

Students will need to use the link of the actual website to share with peers or you for grading. This is **not** the link that is in google sites. When you publish a site, a box on the bottom pops up for about 10 seconds that gives the option to "View" the site. This is the link the student needs to copy and paste. This is what they need to put in the box on the rubric to submit through Google classroom.

Make sure students know that every time they hit "publish" it changes the site on the internet to be the same as what they have created in google sites. Until they hit that button, changes online are not made.