

# State Research Project

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Due Date: FRIDAY MARCH 14, 2014

For this project, students will research a specific state for the purpose of designing, writing and creating a final product. They will need to demonstrate skills in research, explanatory and persuasive writing. Choose from one of the following formats:

\_\_\_\_\_ Travel Brochure

\_\_\_\_\_ Traditional Report

\_\_\_\_\_ Website - required for GATE students but other students may opt for this choice

A calendar of incremental due dates for research notes, and gathering of resources/visuals will be supplied. This will make it easier to complete the project over the 2 months that are given to complete the project. Incremental dates will be adjusted as needed.

For each section, students will write about and provide visuals to support their writing.

\_\_\_\_\_1. Research Notes - students will take notes on each section of their project using the given outline. Summaries written for each will serve as a rough draft for each section. (25 points) (no visuals needed)

\_\_\_\_\_2. Cover - should include a catchy title that includes the name of the state, picture/s or illustrations. Include student name and date. (10 points)

\_\_\_\_\_3. State Map -provide or draw a State Map, which shows the state capital, 5 largest cities and physical features (mountains, forests, plains, rivers, lakes, etc.) Write to describe the climate, features and location of the state in the USA. (20 points)

\_\_\_\_\_4. State History/Timeline - Create a timeline that include 5 main historical events of the state. Include events that led to statehood. This timeline can be generated on the computer but must be created by the student. (15 points)

\_\_\_\_\_5. State Symbols - Provide visuals of 5 state symbols and write about their origin, meaning and adoption. (20 points)

\_\_\_\_\_6. Historical Place to Visit - Provide visuals of 1 historical places or monuments. These can be museums, libraries, national parks, or any place that has a place in history of the state. Write a summary of each explaining its historical significance, location, and what people would find or see there. (15 points)

\_\_\_\_\_7. Attractions - Provide visuals of 1 attraction , which can include amusement or theme parks, centers for entertainment or of educational interest (industry, science, technology, agriculture etc.) Write a summary of each explaining what a person might do or learn. Include location. (15 points)

\_\_\_\_\_8. Famous People - Provide visuals of 2 famous people that were born in the state or made the state his/her home. Write about each one, where they were born or lived in the state, why they were famous and how long they lived there. (15 points)

\_\_\_\_\_9. Resource MAP - create 1 maps with symbols that provides the following information on **natural resources** (e.g. oil, gas, coal, sand, granite, etc.), **agricultural products** (crops and livestock) and **manufactured** (man-made: electronics, clothing, cars, etc) in the state. (20 points)

## **OTHER**

\_\_\_\_\_12. Bibliography - write a bibliography showing the reference books, encyclopedias and online resources you used in researching the state. (10 points)

\_\_\_\_\_13. Presentation and Layout - present and arrange the sections of your brochure so that it is pleasing to the eye and makes others want to visit! (20 points)

**RESOURCES - You will need to use a minimum of 2 reference books one of which can be an encyclopedia. Online resources are fine, but stay away from Wikipedia as it's not always a reliable source of information**

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CCSS (Common Core) Writing Standards Addressed:

2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information closely.

- 2a: Introduce a topic clearly, provide a general focus, group related information logically, include formatting (e.g. headings, illustrations etc).
- 2b: Develop topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations or other information and examples related to the topic.
- 2c: Link ideas within and across categories of information using transitional words, phrases and clauses. (e.g. in contrast, especially, etc)
- 2d: Use precise language and specific vocabulary to inform and explain.

7. Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigations of different aspects of a topic.

10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection and revision)

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# Tips to Remember!

-Write each section to persuade others to visit your state. Point out the positive features, the most interesting historical events as well as the main ideas.

-Stay on track with the incremental due dates. It will make completing the project easier and more manageable.

-Enjoy yourself as you discover fascinating things about your state and share them with your teacher and classmates along the way!

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Parents/Students:

Please read the guidelines for this project thoroughly. Although we will be working on the project in class, **students will be expected to work to complete the project as homework.** Students will have access to school resources but might need to visit the public library for additional resources. Check back frequently to ensure that each section is being completed on time. Please sign below to indicate you have read and understand the content and due date of this project.

I have chosen to do the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ Travel Brochure

\_\_\_\_\_ Traditional Report

\_\_\_\_\_ Website - required for *GATE* students but other students may opt for this choice. Students must have access to a computer and Internet outside the classroom.

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions or Comments:

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