Fifth Grade
HERITAGE PROJECT

Welcome to our fifth grade heritage project. This is a chance for you to research your family history and learn more about your heritage. You will be able to answer such questions as: Where does my family come from? What was it like for my ancestors to come to America? What was it like for my ancestors to grow up as America developed, or what was it like to grow up in another country? What was different in society then, and what was similar to today? Through research, literature, and interviews you will discover a clearer picture of who you are.

This project includes the following activities:
• Writing letters to at least two relatives
• Conducting interviews of at least two family members
• Creating a family crest
• Making a Heritage scrapbook (guidelines follow)
• Collecting family “artifacts”
• Participating in the “Heritage Museum”

Writing Letters

Begin the research of your family history by writing a letter to at least two different grandparents, older relatives, or older family friends. Remember that families often look very different. You may have more than two sets of grandparents, only one set, or none at all. You choose which relative or older friend would enjoy hearing from you and sharing their story. This is the perfect time to discuss with your parents which people would be best to write to for family information. You may concentrate on one side of your family ancestry, or cover more than one side.

You are required to write a minimum of two letters, though more may provide extra data and information. At least one of the letters needs to be mailed in an addressed envelope, the other(s) may be sent by e-mail or fax. Great-grandparents, or great-aunts or uncles are perfect choices for additional letters. Follow the format for letter writing as described in class. Ask relatives for copies of pictures or other materials that may be helpful for other parts of your Heritage Project.
**Interview Family Members**

You will want your family members to take you seriously, so go to your interview prepared. Being organized will make the interview go more smoothly and will provide a better outcome.

- Use the question sheet provided in class, as well as asking additional questions that relate directly to your parents.
- Take time and enjoy the interview - you are learning about your family and your heritage.
- Take notes on lined paper or a note pad. You may record the interview and write it out afterward if you like.
- Take careful notes, and number each response so that it corresponds with the questions. You will need to type up this information later.

**Make a Family Heritage Scrapbook**

Your scrapbook pages will include information collected from interviews, letters, and class assignments. You will have the opportunity to add extra pages as well. The Heritage Project Scrapbook Requirements are on the next page and we will be going over each of the required pages in class.

**Suitcase of Artifacts**

You will be packing a real suitcase for our museum. It should be full of items that represent you and your family’s history. The following is a list of suggestions:

- Interesting family keepsakes to share in a “museum” setting
- Travel brochures of your country or countries of origin
- A toy model or drawing of the form of transportation your ancestors may have used to travel to the United States during immigration times
- Toys or dolls from ancestors
- An art or craft sample from your family’s original region/country
- A book from your family’s country/region of origin
- A book about your country or countries of origin
- Clothes or costumes from your place of origin

**The Heritage Museum**

Touring the museum is a chance for your family to see other student’s projects and to get to know the other fifth grade families.

**Date: December 4th  Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.  Location: Individual Classrooms**

We hope that this project will be enjoyable for you and your family, and that you will learn about your own unique heritage and what it was like for your family to come to this great country.
Heritage Project Scrapbook Requirements

Your scrapbook will include the following pieces.

- Cover - must have your family name(s) on it and be decorated in a way appropriate to your heritage.
- Immediate Family Pages: (2 or more pages) **
  - Each immediate family member must have a paragraph telling about that person.
- Biography Pages: (2 or more pages) **
  - One biography page on a living member of your family and one biography page on a non-living member of your family.
- Recipe Page (1 page) **
  - Includes a significant family/traditional recipe.
- Arriving in America Page(s): (1-2 pages)
  - A paragraph explaining how your family came to America.
  - A world map showing the route your family took to America.
  - Pictures of these family members, if available, or of related places.
- Cultural Traditions/Countries of Origin Page (1 or more pages)
  - 1 page minimum about a tradition related to your heritage
  - OR research on traditions from your country of origin.
- Family Tree Page (1 page)
  - Includes a family tree of your heritage, including names, dates and photos if desired.
- Copies of interview notes (2 or more pages)
  - Must be typed and include a photo of the person interviewed.
- Copies of letters sent and replies received
- 1 or more other pages regarding your heritage.
  - This may include letters, newspaper articles, additional photos with information, or any other information relevant to your heritage. Be creative – if it has to do with your heritage, it’s acceptable!

** Specific page instructions with detailed requirements will be handed out in class.
Heritage Museum
Thursday, December 4th 6:30-7:30pm

Come enjoy a fun evening of touring the museum. Plan to bring your parents, siblings, and other family members.

Important Due Dates:

Tuesday, Sept. 16  Heritage Project Introduced in class

Tuesday, Sept. 23  Addresses for Information Letters due
Blank Scrapbook due

Tuesday, Sept. 30  TWO SETS of Interview Notes due
Minimum of two Information Request Letters have been emailed or mailed.

Wednesday, Oct. 8  Completed Immediate Family Page(s) due

Tuesday, Oct. 14  First completed Biography Page due

Monday, Oct. 20  Completed Recipe Page due

Thursday, Oct. 30  Completed Arriving in America Page due

Thursday, Nov. 6  Completed Family Crest due

Tuesday, Nov. 11  Second completed Biography Page due
List of Suitcase Items due

Tuesday, Nov. 18  Completed Cultural Traditions Page due
Completed Family Tree Page due
Practice your oral presentation at home and write note cards if you like.

Thursday, Dec. 4  All items due in class (first thing in the morning):
Scrapbook, Museum Suitcase, Oral Presentation - be ready to share about your heritage!
HERITAGE PROJECT INFORMATION PACKET

This signed sheet is due back to your teacher on Thursday, September 18, 2013

Go over this entire packet with your parents and list any questions you may have below.

Student Signature____________________________________________________________________
Parent Signature ______________________________________________________________________

Please contact your teacher anytime throughout the project if you have questions or concerns.

Questions about the Heritage Project: