

Project 6: Ancient Connections Newspaper Teacher Guide

Description:

The students will research and use their own creativity to develop the front page of a newspaper that depicts an important event in an ancient civilization. Their articles should reflect the values, customs and issues of a specific society during the time period of the specified event.

Grade Levels: 7-10

NCSS Standards:

1. Explain how people from diverse cultural perspectives and frames of reference may interpret data and experiences differently.
2. Identify and use processes important to reconstructing and reinterpreting the past, such as using a variety of sources, providing, validating and weighing evidence for claims, checking credibility of sources and searching for causality.
5. Analyze group and institutional influences on people, events and culture.

NETS Performance Indicators (Grades 6-8):

5. Apply productivity/multimedia tools and peripherals to support personal productivity, group collaboration and learning throughout the curriculum.
6. Design, develop, publish and present products (e.g., Web pages, videotapes) using technology resources that demonstrate and communicate curriculum concepts to audiences inside and outside the classroom.
8. Use appropriate technology to accomplish a variety of tasks and solve problems.

NETS Performance Indicators (Grades 9-12):

5. Use technology for managing and communicating information (e.g., finances, schedules, addresses, purchases, correspondence).
6. Routinely and efficiently use online information resources to meet needs for collaboration, research, publications, communications and productivity.
8. Select and apply technology for research, information analysis, problem solving and decision-making in content learning.

Internet Applications:

Students will refine their research skills and become more proficient at Web design.

Materials:

Web browser

Microsoft Word 2003 (*Microsoft Word 97, 2000 or XP* may also be used for this project.)

NEWS SAMPLE.DOC

Prerequisite Skills:

The students should have experience using a Web browser and *Word*.

Suggested Time Allotment: two to three class periods

Process:

Distribute the *Ancient Connections Newspaper: Student Handout* and provide an overview of the project. Explain that the students will use the Internet to research a particular historical occurrence from an ancient civilization. They should get details about the time period and any societal issues related to the event. The students will then act as newspaper editors and reporters, designing the front page of a newspaper that might have been published at the time the incident took place. They will use their research and their own imaginations to create a credible artifact. When the projects are complete, distribute copies and have the students explain the content of their front pages to the class. **Note:** Print the NEWS SAMPLE.DOC to display as a sample, but do not distribute the file to the students.

Evaluation:

Evaluate the students on their research as well as the originality of the layout and presentation of “news” included in the project.

Extensions:

Suggest that the students take the front page designed by one of their classmates and write a related “lead article” for an edition of the newspaper to be published a week after the original.

Technology Enrichment:

Direct the students to locate additional information and graphics on their topic, then to convert their front page into a Web site by using *Microsoft FrontPage 2003*.

Ancient Connections Newspaper Student Handout

- Choose a historical event from an ancient civilization to use as the basis for the newspaper's front page. Then launch the Web browser and access the following sites:

<http://eawc.evansville.edu>

www.multnomah.lib.or.us/lib/homework/anchsthc.html

www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/asbook.html

- Find useful information about the specific incident and the ancient civilization where it took place. Research facts about the event as well as information about daily life, politics, customs and important issues of the time. Bookmark useful Web pages for future reference.
- Launch *Microsoft Word 2003*. Copy useful information from the Internet and paste it into the *Word* document. From the Web browser, simply highlight the data to be saved, then choose EDIT → COPY. Task-switch back to *Word* by holding down the ALT key and pressing the ESCAPE key, or by choosing the appropriate application in the Quick Launch toolbar at the base of the window. Next, in the *Word* document, select EDIT → PASTE. The PASTE OPTIONS Smart Tag will appear in *Word 2003*, which allows the user to keep prior formatting if desired. To save graphics, position the cursor above the appropriate image and right-click the mouse button. Choose SAVE PICTURE AS, select the correct location on the hard drive, then click SAVE.
- Task-switch back to *Word* using the steps outlined above. Be certain to write at least three “news” stories that relate to the event and include at least one graphic. Also include elements that are traditionally seen on the front pages of newspapers, such as a brief weather report or a small text advertisement.
- Using newspaper style (emphasis on who, what, where, when and why), write the articles. Remember they should be approximately 250 words or less and based on fact rather than opinion. Some papers do include editorials (opinion pieces) on the front page, but these are always clearly titled Editorial. (**Note:** Headlines or titles will be created later in the lesson.) Press the ENTER key twice to add sufficient space between each article. Save the *Word* articles by selecting FILE → SAVE AS. Enter *ARTICLES.DOC* as the filename.
- Now do the layout of the front page. In *Word 2003*, open a blank page by choosing. FILE → NEW. Notice that the NEW DOCUMENT Task Pane will appear to the right. Under New, select Blank Document. At the top of the page, enter the title, or masthead of the newspaper.
- Make sure it includes the city or town as part of the title. Highlight the title and choose FORMAT → FONT to open the Font dialogue box. Select the desired type style, size and color, then enter the name of the newspaper at the top of the page.

- Highlight the text, then choose FORMAT → PARAGRAPH. In the Alignment drop-down menu at the top of the dialog box, choose CENTERED and click OK. Press the ENTER key, then type the day of the week, date and year under the paper's title. Reduce the type size for this line to 12 point following the steps on the previous page. Save the file as FRONTPAGE.DOC.
- To incorporate the images saved from the Internet, position the cursor in the desired position and choose INSERT → PICTURE from file. Locate and double-click the file, and it should appear in the *Word* document. Right-click the image, and select FORMAT PICTURE. Choose the LAYOUT tab and select position. Choose tight, then click OK. Position the cursor on the photo, hold down the mouse button and drag to the desired position.
- Usually the lead story in a newspaper is positioned in the right column. Decide which of the stories is most important, then click the ARTICLES.DOC file at the base of the window to maximize it. Use the Edit menu to arrange the articles in the preferred order of appearance, with the lead story at the top of the page. Then highlight all of the text, and select EDIT → COPY. Click the FRONTPAGE.DOC file at the base of the window to maximize it, then position the cursor below the headline and choose EDIT → PASTE.
- Decide on the number of columns for the front page: two or three. Highlight the text and select FORMAT → COLUMNS. Click the desired number of columns and choose OK.
- To create a banner headline across the top of the page, insert a rectangular text box between the masthead and the lead article. Enter the desired headline. With the text box still selected, choose FORMAT → TEXT BOX. Select the LAYOUT tab and then choose TIGHT, then click the COLORS AND LINES tab. In the Line menu, select the COLOR drop-down list and click NO LINE.
- Choose the font, style and size of the headline as shown on the previous page. Create headlines for the smaller articles using the same process, repositioning each text box as needed. Add another text box to include a small advertisement or announcement. Make any final adjustments to size and placement of text and graphics boxes. Make sure that the stylistic choices do not make the articles difficult to read.
- Save and print the file, FRONTPAGE.DOC. Exit *Word*.