

Star W Project

2004 - 2005

3 School

Marilyn Canale

Grade 4

Stories

of

the

Presidents

Public School Number Three
Star-W Project 2004/2005

Title of Project:
Stories of the Presidents Book

Grade Level/Subject:
Fourth Grade Language Arts/Social Studies

Curriculum Objective:
The students will create a book, using technology, that contains the stories of the lives of selected Presidents of the United States.

CCCS: 3.1A; 3.1G; 3.1H; 3.2A; 3.2B; 3.2C; 3.2D;
3.5A; 3.5B; 6.3

Technology Objectives:
The students will be able to find at least three pre-selected web-sites on the internet.
The students will be able to read and export usable information from at least two of these web-sites.
The students will be able to use Microsoft Word applications.
The students will be able to use Inspiration applications.
Materials Needed:

desktop computers
laptop computers
color printers
computer paper
specialty-design computer paper
pocket folders
pre-formatted worksheets
highlighters
pencils
reference book about the U.S. Presidents
Microsoft Word
Inspiration
Internet Explorer
Print Shop
book binder
camera
chalkboard
chalk

Description of Environment:

Open-access time in the computer lab was utilized for many of the sessions. The classroom was used for laptop sessions. The classroom desktop computers and color printers were also used during the project work times. Generally, the students worked on the project once a week for a time span of about four months.

Lesson One

The plan for the Star W Project book, Stories of the Presidents, is introduced. Each student is assigned a President.

Lesson Two

The students begin an internet search for information about their Presidents using pre-selected web-sites.

Lesson Three

The students print out information about their Presidents from the web-sites.

Lesson Four

The students read the information fact sheets and highlight important facts.

Lesson Five (two sessions)

The students record important facts about their Presidents on pre-formatted worksheets.

Lesson Six

The students practice Microsoft Word applications.

Lesson Seven

The students write paragraphs about the lives of their Presidents on special pre-formatted worksheets.

Lesson Eight (two sessions)

The students type the written paragraphs of the stories of their Presidents. The stories are printed on specialty-design paper.

Lesson Nine

The students practice importing images from Google into Microsoft Word.

Lesson Ten

Each student formats a President image from Google into Microsoft Word. The pictures are printed out on specialty-design paper.

Lesson Eleven (two sessions)

The students create graphic organizer web designs about Presidents using "Inspiration".

Lesson Twelve

Photographs are taken of the students with their President pictures.

Lesson Thirteen (two sessions)

The students write personal paragraphs about this book project experience. The tasks are typed.

Lesson Fourteen

The project experience paragraphs are printed out. Final book cover designs are practiced using Print Shop.

Evaluation of the Project:

rubric based on the necessary elements of the project
individual, personal paragraphs about the book project
experience

Teacher Evaluation of the Project:

Creating this book, Stories of the Presidents, was a great project for a class of fourth grade students. The students demonstrated a true interest in learning about the Presidents of the United States. Of course, using technology helped immensely in motivating the students. Each student really enjoyed the idea of being responsible for a particular President. To hear each child speak about "my" President was very rewarding. Furthermore, the students were always searching for more and more facts about Presidents in other things. They seemed to be "on the look-out" for President information.

From the classroom teacher's perspective, projects that involve the study of social studies are usually very rewarding. The teacher usually finds that the students are self-motivated. Also, using computers keeps the students very interested, whether they are using the internet or typing out writing tasks. During the project there had been some problems with the computers. Two of the classroom computers had to be replaced during the school year. There were a few laptop computer problems at the beginning of the year. A few students took awhile to get their passwords straightened out.

All in all, this project was successful. Most of the students expressed a continued interest in learning more Presidential facts. The children seemed very proud of the finished book.

Lesson One: Stories of the Presidents

Objective: The students will understand what the Star W Project is all about.

The students will recognize who the Presidents of the United States are.

Materials: children's reference book on the United States

Presidents (with pictures); individual pocket folders; introduction worksheet for each student; list of all of the Presidents for each student; pencils

Activity: Each student will receive a labeled pocket folder for their Star W work. A list of all of the Presidents will be given to each student. Each student will be assigned one President to research. The teacher will decide which President each student is assigned. The name of the President along with the student's name will be written on the introduction worksheet. The teacher will show Presidents' pictures and other related pictures from the reference book.

Evaluation: All of the students will be able to name his/her President and understand what their tasks are.

CCCS: 3.1 A; 3.5 B; 6.3

Lesson Two: Stories of the Presidents

Objective: The students will find information about their Presidents using the pre-selected web-sites.

Materials: the worksheets with the web-sites listed; individual pocket folders; desktop computers; printer; computer paper

Activity: Each student will use a desktop computer in the computer lab. The students will log on to the internet. They will refer to the worksheet with the pre-selected web-sites listed which is inside their folders. The students will type in the web addresses, one by one, and then type in the name of his/her President. The students will read the information and decide if it is useful. The helpful information will be printed.

Evaluation: Each student will be able to find useful information from at least two web-sites.

CCCS: 3.1A; 3.1G; 3.1H; 3.5B; 6.3

Lesson Three: Stories of the Presidents

Objective: The students will find additional information about their Presidents using the pre-selected web-sites.

Materials: the worksheets with the web-sites listed; individual pocket folders; desktop computers; printer; computer paper

Activity: Each student will use a desktop computer. The students will log on to the internet. They will refer to the worksheet with the pre-selected web-sites listed which is inside their folders. Some students must retype a web-site from the previous lesson, since technical difficulties had resulted in some incomplete tasks. The students will locate the remaining web-sites and scan for useful information. The helpful information will be printed. The print-outs will be placed in the folders.

Evaluation: Each student will be able to find useful information from at least one more web-site.

CCCS: 3.1A; 3.1G; 3.1H; 3.5B; 6.3

Lesson Four: Stories of the Presidents

Objective: The students will find important facts about their Presidents in their research print-outs.

Materials: individual pocket folders; internet print-outs; highlighters

Activity: The students will take from their folders all the internet print-out sheets about their Presidents. They will read the information. Each student will use a highlighter to emphasize the facts that may be used for his/her story. The teacher will help with vocabulary and advice. The students will share ideas.

Evaluation: Each student will be able to at least find eight important facts about his/her President.

CCCS: 3.1A; 3.1G; 3.1H; 3.3B; 6.3

Lesson Five: Stories of the Presidents (two sessions)

Objective: The students will make a list of important facts about their Presidents.

Materials: individual pocket folders, internet print-out papers, pencils, special worksheets with a Microsoft Word and Word Art lay-out

Activity: The students will review the previously highlighted facts of information on their internet print-out papers. On a special numbered worksheet with a Word Art heading, the students will write sentences of information from the highlighted facts. The teacher will guide the students to follow a sequence of events while writing.

Evaluation: All of the students will be able to write at least seven sentences.

CCCS: 3.1A; 3.1C; 3.1G; 3.2B; 6.3

Lesson Seven: Stories of the Presidents

Objective: The students will write paragraphs about the lives of their Presidents.

Materials: individual pocket folders; pencils; pre-printed paragraph form worksheets; the lists of important President facts

Activity: The students will refer to their worksheets with the facts about their Presidents (from their folders). Using the paragraph worksheet form, each student will write a short story about his/her President. The teacher will check for correct sequence of events. The students will proof-read with the teacher's help.

Evaluation: Each student will be able to write at least a five-sentence paragraph.

CCCS: 3.1G; 3.2A; 3.2B; 3.2C; 3.2D

Lesson Eight: Stories of the Presidents (two sessions)

Objective: The students will type the paragraphs of the stories of their Presidents.

Materials: desktop computers; computer paper; Microsoft Word; the individual pocket folders; the work-sheets with the written paragraphs; printers; computer projector

Activity: The students will log on to Microsoft Word. The teacher will review typing instructions using the computer projector. The students will refer to their written paragraphs and begin typing. The teacher will check the progress of the typing. The work will be saved. Some samples will be printed.

Evaluation: All of the students will be able to type at least half of their paragraphs and save the document.

CCCS: 3.1A; 3.2B; 3.2C; 3.5A

Lesson Nine: Stories of the Presidents

Objective: The students will practice importing an image from Google into a Microsoft Word document.

Materials: laptop computers; Microsoft Word program; Google; chalkboard; chalk; individual pocket folders

Activity: The students will log on to the laptop computers.

The students will open Microsoft Word. The teacher will explain and use a chalkboard diagram about how to minimize the Microsoft Word document. The individual pocket folders will be distributed. The students will log on to Google Images. Checking for correct spelling first in their folders, each student will type in his/her President's name. The images will be reviewed and one will be chosen to import in to Microsoft Word. The students will practice sizing the image with the teacher's help. An image that seems successful will be saved.

Evaluation: At least three-fourths of the students will be able to import and size an image.

CCCS: 3.1A; 3.4A; 3.5B

Lesson Ten: Stories of the Presidents

Objective: Each student will import a President image from Google into a Microsoft Word page.

Materials: laptop computers; desktop computers; Google; Microsoft Word; printers; specialty designed computer paper; individual pocket folders

Activity: Some students will log on to the laptops. Other students will log on to the classroom desktops. The students will access their files of any saved President images that were previously practiced. The image sizing will be reviewed and finalized. The name of each President will be added to each page using a large font size in bold, blue color. The document will be saved and three copies will be printed out on the specialty paper to be used for the book. The President paragraphs will also be accessed from the files and printed out on the specialty paper.

Evaluation: All of the students will have at least one image of a President with a title.

CCCS: 3.1A; 3.1H; 3.5A; 3.1B

Lesson Eleven: Stories of the Presidents (two sessions)

Objective: The students will create a graphic organizer/web design using the "Inspiration" program.

Materials: desktop computers; "Inspiration" software; specialty designed computer paper; individual pocket folders; printer

Activity: The students will log onto "Inspiration". The teacher will review the basics of using "Inspiration". The students will practice creating a graphic organizer that presents information related to the topic of Presidents. Students can also work in pairs. The students will print copies of their final web format for their Star W folders. One design will be selected for the class book.

Evaluation: Three-fourths of the students will be able to create a graphic organizer/web design with at least four images, a colorful background, and some text.

CCCS: 3.1A; 3.2D; 3.5A; 3.5B

Lesson Twelve: Stories of the Presidents

Objective: The students will have their photographs taken with their President images pictures.

Materials: camera; portrait images of the Presidents

Activity: The teacher will take a picture of each student with the portrait image of his/her President.

Evaluation: The students will be able to show enthusiasm for their individual Presidents.

CCCS: 3.5A; 3.5B

Lesson Fourteen: Stories of the Presidents

Objective: The students will print out their book experience paragraphs and create book cover designs with Print Shop.

Materials: individual pocket folders; original copies of the above paragraphs; desktop computers; printers; specialty-design computer paper; Print Shop

Activity: The students will log onto the computers and locate the saved files of their book project experience documents. They will proof-read again with the teacher's help. The documents will be printed out on the specialty-design paper. The students will open up Print Shop. The teacher will make suggestions for the book cover. The students will explore graphics and print out some samples. The final cover will be voted on.

Evaluation: The students will be able to complete at least a simple "My Book Project Experience" document.
At least half of the students will be able to create a book cover graphics design.

CCCS: 3.1A; 3.2A; 3.2B; 3.2D; 3.5A; 3.5



My Name _____

My President _____

Web-Site 1: www.multied.com/Bio/presidents/

Web-Site 2: [www2.lhric.org/pocantico/
presidents/presidents.htm](http://www2.lhric.org/pocantico/presidents/presidents.htm)

Web-Site 3: www.americanpresidents.org/

Web-Site 4: [www.worldalmanacforkids.com/
explore/presidents.html](http://www.worldalmanacforkids.com/explore/presidents.html)

My Own Web-Site: _____

1. The Presidents of United States of America
2. Who is your favorite President?
3. American Presidents: Life Portraits
4. World Almanac for Kids

Important Facts About My President

My Name _____

My President _____

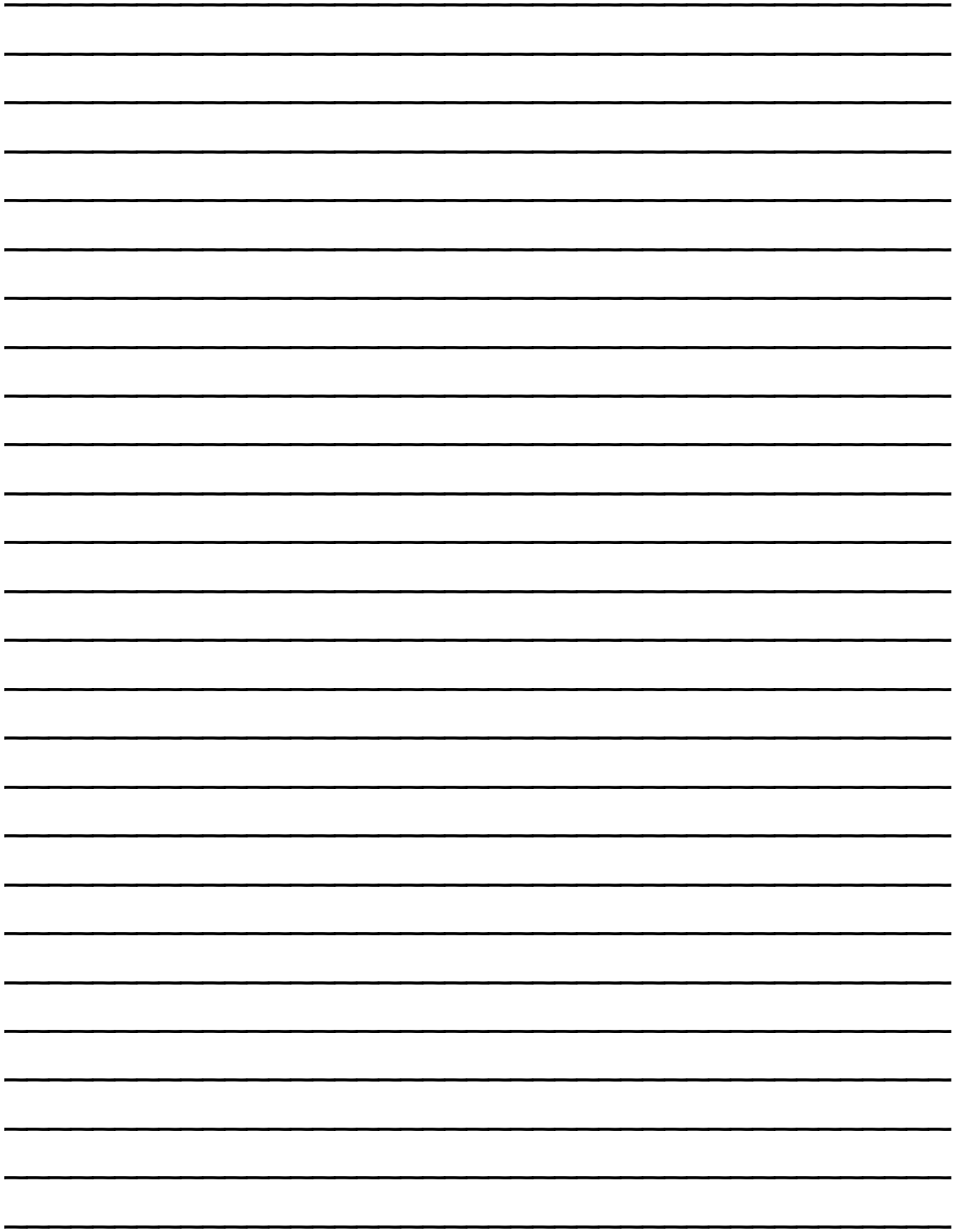
1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____



Student Name _____

Score: _____

The Necessary Components:

Find at least three pre-selected web-sites about U.S. Presidents.

Find at least eight important facts about an assigned President.

Write two paragraphs about the life of the assigned President.

Format a President image and a President-topic graphic organizer.

EXEMPLARY	STANDARD	DEVELOPING	BEGINNING
4	3	2	1
three web-sites found	two or more web-sites found	two web-sites found	one web-site found
eight or more facts found	seven or more facts found	six or more facts found	six or fewer facts found
two well-organized paragraphs written	two fairly well-organized paragraphs written	two paragraphs written with some help	one paragraph written
image formatted and graphic organizer has seven or more parts	image formatted and graphic organizer has six parts	image formatted and graphic organizer has at least five parts	image formatted and graphic organizer has five or fewer parts

Rubric for Stories of the Presidents