

February 17, 2012

Dear Parents,

Attached are the directions and a timeline of due dates for the **5th grade Country of Origin Research Report**. The students will be responsible for selecting a country of origin of either immediate family or descendants. They will need to research five subtopics about their country of origin - tourist attractions, economics & agriculture, culture & language, government & leadership, and geography. Their report should include subheadings for these five subtopics.

Along with the timeline, we have included a rubric and research organizers, to assist with their research. This is considered an at-home project. However, we have set up due dates to monitor the progress of the students throughout the process. As you can see, all research should be completed by March 30, 2012. The final report (including all research organizers and rough draft) is due on April 27, 2012.

Please complete and return the bottom portion of this letter by February 24, 2012, to ensure you have received and reviewed the information. Please be certain to write the name of the country your child has selected to research.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or email us.

Thank you,

The 5th Grade Teachers

Date_____

I have received a copy of the materials for the **5th grade Country of Origin Research Report**.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: _____

Name of Student: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature_____

Fifth Grade Research Paper -- Due April 27, 2012

Topic: *Country of Origin* (home project assigned on February 17, 2012)

This 5+ page research paper is a homework project that will include information related to the following subtopics for your country of origin:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. tourist attractions | d. government & leadership |
| b. economics & agriculture | e. geography |
| c. culture & language | |

Timeline:

	DUE DATES:
1. Choose your country of origin for teacher approval.	February 24, 2012
2. Complete graphic organizers (provided) for the 5 subtopics (above) while conducting your research. <u>Compile a list of resources</u> for your bibliography as you go along. Teachers will check each organizer to ensure adequate information has been compiled for each topic.	
a. tourist attractions	March 2, 2012
b. economics & agriculture	March 9, 2012
c. culture & language	March 16, 2012
d. government & leadership	March 23, 2012
e. geography	March 30, 2012
3. Write a draft copy for each section of your research paper. <u>Teachers will not be editing drafts</u> , only checking for timely completion.	April 18, 2012
4. Revise and edit your draft copies and compile into one longer paper. Students are encouraged to use peer editors. Include headings for each subtopic that you researched.	April 20, 2012
5. Add non-fiction text features such as charts, photographs, etc.	Due with final copy
6. Draw or print a map including a legend/key. Label the country's capital, major cities, and tourist attractions.	Due with final copy
7. Format your bibliography. (2 print and 2 Internet sources)	Due with final copy
8. Type and format the written portion of your 5-page paper.	April 27, 2012
9. Brochure will be completed in computer class.	May 4, 2012

Formatting:

- Cover with illustration required.
- Subheadings for each subtopic are required.
- Double spaced typing, 1" margins, size 12 font.

Fifth Grade Research Paper Rubric

Task:	Criteria:	Points Available:	Points Awarded:
5 Graphic Organizers:	On time, detailed information, sources cited		
Tourist Attractions		3 points	
Economics and Agriculture		3 points	
Culture and Language		3 points	
Government and Leadership		3 points	
Geography and Landmarks		3 points	
Draft	Timely completion	5 points	
Final Paper	Each subtopic is fully researched and explained with supporting details. Information is described in a logical order	40 points	
Brochure	All country historical and recreational information is complete and correctly formatted.	10 points	
Cover	Country of origin, illustration, student's first and last name, date, homeroom	5 points	
Non-fiction Text Features	Includes at least two photos, charts, etc. within body of report	5 points	
Map	Drawn or printed with a legend/key and labels	5 points	
Bibliography	Includes 2 print and 2 Internet sources, properly formatted in MLA style	5 points	
Neatness and Organization	Subheadings for each subtopic Neatly assembled Double spaced, 12 inch font, 1inch margins	5 points	
Conventions	Spelling, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure	5 points	

Name: _____

Tourist Attractions

Due Date: March 2, 2012

Country of Origin: _____

Historical/Cultural Location #1

You must choose a location that fits into one of the following categories.

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| -museum | - art (painting/sculptures) | -building (government/historical) |
| -landmark | - statue/monument | |

What is it and why is it important to the city/country? (description)

What can you do/see there?

Where is it located? (city)

When was it built?

Any other information you feel is important if you were to visit this location.

Historical/Cultural Location #2

You must choose a location that fits into one of the following categories.

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| -museum | - art (painting/sculptures) | -building (government/historical) |
| -landmark | - statue/monument | |

What is it and why is it important to the city/country? (description)

What can you do/see there?

Where is it located? (city)

When was it built?

Any other information you feel is important if you were to visit this location.

Historical/Cultural Location #3

You must choose a location that fits into one of the following categories.

- museum
- art (painting/sculptures)
- building (government/historical)
- landmark
- statue/monument

What is it and why is it important to the city/country? (description)

What can you do/see there?

Where is it located? (city)

When was it built?

Any other information you feel is important if you were to visit this location.

Recreational Location

You must choose a location that fits into one of the following categories.

-sporting event - nature -beach

What is it and why is it important to the city/country? (description)

What can you do/see there?

Where is it located? (city)

When was it built?

Any other information you feel is important if you were to visit this location.

Country Information

How can you get there? (ie. boat, car, plane, etc.)

Modes of Transportation (how do people get around)

What is their currency?

Population:

What to pack. Be sure to explain how to prepare for all different seasons.

Winter:

Spring:

Summer:

Fall:

List the sources you used for this section:

Name: _____

Economics and Agriculture

Due Date: March 9, 2012

Country of Origin: _____

Economics is the way a country manages its money and resources (such as workers and land) to produce, buy, and sell goods and services. Goods are products like cars, computers, or even corn. Services are duties performed by one person for another, such as teaching and transportation.

Agriculture is the science, the art, and the business of cultivating soil in the ground. It also refers to the producing of crops, the raising of livestock, and farming in general.

List the main products that are produced, bought, and sold within your country:

What are the main imports?

What are the main exports?

List the main services that are performed within your country:

Is agriculture a large part of the economy? _____

What crops are important to the economy of your country?

Does your country have a free market system like in the United States that is based on supply and demand for goods and services? Or does your country have an economy controlled by their government? Explain below.

Useful links to help you understand how economics works . . .

<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/subjects/economics.htm>

<http://kidmoney.about.com/od/teachingchildren/p/teach-kids-about-the-economy.htm>

<http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3750579>

List the sources you used for this section:

Name: _____

Culture and Language

Due Date: March 16, 2012

Country of Origin: _____

Language

What is the dominant language spoken in this country?

Are there other languages spoken in this country?

What kind of alphabet do they use? (Show examples of writings)

Food and Culture

What type of food is enjoyed in this country?

Is there anything in this cuisine that stands out from other cuisines? (hot and spicy, bland and boring, lots of pasta, etc.)

Give examples of typical meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner, special feasts like holidays or celebrations)

Because of the heritage of this country, what is unique about their culture?

Is there a dominant religion in this country?

Sports and Leisure

What sports are typically played in this country? Is one sport favored over the others?

What other activities do the "locals" enjoy? (dancing, sailing, camel racing, etc?)

List the sources you used for this section:

Name: _____

Government and Leadership

Due Date: March 23, 2012

Country of Origin: _____

Graphic Feature -

Draw or include a picture of the flag or the country

Type of government currently in place? (democracy, parliamentary monarch, dictatorship)

Describe the structure of this type of government (how does it work?)

Current leader of the country?

Name of the current leader of the country

How long has this person been in power?

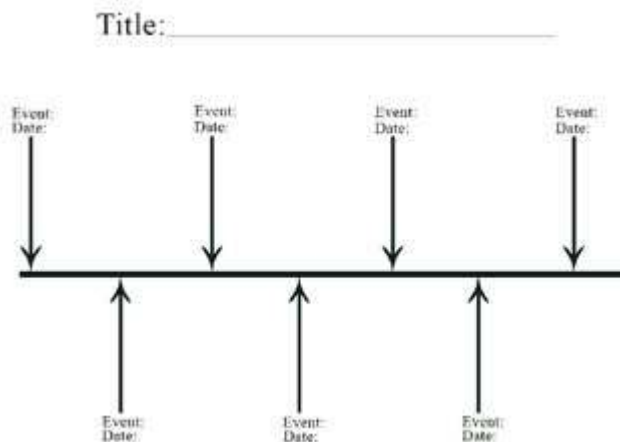
HOW and WHEN did they become leader (election, coronation, etc)

Brief background of person (born, family, etc)

GRAPHIC FEATURE -

Create a timeline of the country's leaders

EXAMPLE -



Major Events that changed government -

Find information about any major events that led to the country's government today
(example: war, vote, takeover, etc)

1. _____

2. _____

List the sources you used for this section:

Name: _____

Geography

Due Date: March 30, 2012

Country of Origin: _____

Land Size

- Area in square miles :

- Size compared to states in US:

Location

Continent, Countries or Oceans/Seas, which border the country:

Physical Features and Landforms - describe any mountain ranges, lakes, major rivers, etc. found in the country.

Vegetation - What types of plants grow in this country? What is it well known for?

Climate - describe the seasons and average temperatures

Some websites to get you started (remember to use print sources as well)

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/>

<http://www.factmonster.com/>

List the sources you used for this section:

MLA Works Cited Page: Basic Format

According to MLA style, you must have a Works Cited page at the end of your research paper. All entries in the Works Cited page must correspond to the works cited in your main text.

Basic Rules

- Begin your Works Cited page on a separate page at the end of your research paper. It should have the same one-inch margins and last name, page number header as the rest of your paper.
- Label the page Works Cited (do not italicize the words Works Cited or put them in quotation marks) and center the words Works Cited at the top of the page.
- Double space all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries.
- Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations five spaces so that you create a hanging indent.
- List page numbers of sources efficiently, when needed. If you refer to a journal article that appeared on pages 225 through 250, list the page numbers on your Works Cited page as 225-50.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/05/>

Book with one author:

Lastname, Firstname. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Print.

Book with more than one author:

The first given name appears in last name, first name format; subsequent author names appear in first name last name format.

Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner. *The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring*. Boston: Allyn, 2000. Print.

Book with no author:

List by title of the book. Incorporate these entries alphabetically just as you would with works that include an author name.

Encyclopedia of Indiana. New York: Somerset, 1993. Print.

Article in a Reference Book (e.g. Encyclopedias, Dictionaries)

For entries in encyclopedias, dictionaries, and other reference works, cite the piece as you would any other work in a collection but do not include the publisher information. Also, if the reference book is organized alphabetically, as most are, do not list the volume or the page number of the article or item.

"Ideology." *The American Heritage Dictionary*. 3rd ed. 1997. Print.

Article in a Magazine

Cite by listing the article's author, putting the title of the article in quotations marks, and italicizing the periodical title. Follow with the date of publication. Remember to abbreviate the month. The basic format is as follows:

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* Day Month Year: pages. Medium of publication.

Citation for a web site

Author's last name, first name. "Page or article title." *Name of web site*. Publisher or sponsor of the web site, date of copyright or last update. Web. Date web site was accessed. <url>.

example:

Family of Vince Lombardi. "About Vince Lombardi." *Vince Lombardi*. Luminary Group LLC, 2010. Web. Jan. 9, 2012. <<http://www.vincelombardi.com/about.html>>.