

8th Grade Project Week 2011-2012

Overview

These are your instructions for your Project Week assignment. Please read them carefully, because they will help you to plan your time wisely and do a good job.

8th Grade Project Week consists of three parts: 1) a written report on a book that has been approved by your teacher, 2) either a poster or a three-dimensional representation of one of several objects or events found in the Middle Ages (400-1450 A.D.), and 3) a brief written summary of your project. All three must be turned in on **Tuesday, January 17, 2012**. **Please Note:** It should take you a minimum of thirty hours to complete all parts. A time log will be handed out with this project. Fill in the log as you work, recording the amount of time you spend on the project each day, and then have a parent/guardian initial it.

When you bring your project in on **Tuesday, January 17**, bring it to the Auditorium where faculty will help you set it up. However, bring your book report and your summary to your Medieval History class and turn it in to your teacher.

Be sure to bring to school on Tuesday, January 17:

- 1) The project (either poster or construction) with the brief written summary
- 2) The written book report in a nice folder with a cover and your name on it
- 3) Your time log (with a minimum of thirty hours)

Book Report

The books approved for project week are listed below. These books are present in libraries in the Twin Cities area, and therefore should be easy to locate. However, please *do not* check out more than one book from a library at a time, since there are only a limited number of copies in local libraries. (Some of these titles are available to buy online, often for very reasonable prices.) You are responsible for obtaining the book and informing your teacher which book you will read and report on.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>
The Story of the Grail	Howard Pyle
Otto of the Silver Hand	Howard Pyle
Men of Iron	Howard Pyle
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood	Howard Pyle
The Trumpeter of Krakow	Eric Kelly
Black Arrow	R. Stevenson
Knight's Fee	R. Sutcliff
The Sword and the Circle	R. Sutcliff
The Shield Ring	R. Sutcliff
The Eagle of the Ninth	R. Sutcliff

Details for the Book Report

1) Write a one-page summary of the *plot* of the book. Your history teacher will explain how to do this. Focus only on the most important events in the narrative; do not focus on irrelevant details of the story. Also, there is no need to comment at all on how you liked the book. Just summarize the plot as well as you can.

2) Find *three* parts of the story that helped you understand events or people from Medieval History. Write a paragraph on *each* of these three things, describing how reading the book helped deepen your understanding of the topics. Below you will find a list of topics that you might come across in your reading. There may also be a topic in your book that is not on this list but which might be appropriate to discuss in a paragraph.

Some Example Topics:

- Fall of the Roman Empire
- Examples of old Roman habits, ideas, language, or buildings
- Barbarian habits or ideas
- The relationship between lords and vassals
- Monastery life, monks, priests, bishops, popes
- Knighthood
- Conflicts between the Church and lords or other governmental figures
- Everyday life of women or children
- Moslems (Moors, Saracens)
- Vikings (Danes, Swedes, Norse)
- Byzantines
- Travel and trade between countries and cultures
- Science and medicine
- Art and crafts (metalwork, baking, soapmaking etc.)
- Education

Project

The project can be on any topic in Medieval History (400 to 1450 A.D.), *except for* witchcraft or sorcery. Every project needs to be approved by your history teacher. Before project week you will make a list of three or four topics that seem most fruitful and interesting, which your teacher will consider. Together, you and your teacher will determine your final topic.

Details for Poster Construction

Presentation

You will devise a poster that visually presents your topic. This should:

1. Be drawn free-hand, not traced, photocopied, or pasted;
2. Not contain anything that sticks out from the poster board;
3. Be in color;
4. Be no larger than 2 feet by 2 feet;
5. Include a written description that gives a general overview of your topic;
6. Have each part labeled;
7. Have your first and last name on the front;
8. Have the author and title of one non-encyclopedic source you used to research your project.

Evaluation

Artistic ability will not be evaluated, but your goal will be to make your poster as neat, clear, and well-organized as possible. Originality and creativity, while certainly favorable and praiseworthy aspects of this project, should not eclipse the goals of clarity, good organization, and detail.

Possible Topics

Picking a topic such as kings, Vikings, war, marriage, barbarians etc. *are too broad.*

More fruitful topics are less broad, such as: tapestry weaving, serfs' houses, castle designs, Viking ships, a particular battle, children's education, etc.

These are only examples. You should think of your own topic, and your teacher must approve it.

Details for Three-Dimensional Construction

Presentation

You will construct an object that will:

1. Not be prefabricated. You must use plaster, paper mache, styrofoam or some similar material (but no Legos);
2. Be on a board or platform no more than 16 inches wide and 16 inches deep, and the project must be less than 12 inches high;
3. Include a written description that gives a general overview of your construction.
4. Have each key part labeled;
5. Have your first and last name visible on the front;
6. Have a note card listing the author and title of one non-encyclopedic source you used to research the object

Evaluation

Artistic ability will not be evaluated, but your goal will be to make your three-dimensional construction as neat, clear, and well-organized as possible. Originality and creativity, while certainly favorable and praiseworthy aspects of this project, should not eclipse the goals of clarity, good organization, and detail.

Possible Topics

The following are only examples. You should think of your own topic, and your teacher must approve it.

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| 1. Drawbridges and moats | 17. Fortifications |
| 2. Viking ships | 18. Life of the clergy |
| 3. Rubiyat | 19. Weapons |
| 4. The life of a particular saint | 20. Viking burial |
| 5. Medieval musical instruments | 21. Life of a lord or vassal |
| 6. Training of knights | 22. Status of women |
| 7. Training of monks and/or sisters | 23. Life as a Moslem |
| 8. Cathedrals | 24. Medicine |
| 9. Monasteries | 25. Icons |
| 10. Sagas (Viking epic poems) | 26. Code of chivalry |
| 11. Medieval occupations in emerging towns | 27. Entertainment/Sport |
| 12. The bubonic plague | 28. Jewelry |
| 13. Education | 29. Early universities |
| 14. Manor Life | 30. Trade and commerce |
| 15. Mosques | 31. Medieval food |
| 16. Medieval art (stained glass, for example) | 32. Castles |

Written Summary

You will write a brief summary describing your project and hand it in to your teacher on January 17, 2012. The basic idea of the paragraph is to summarize your project so, along with your name and a brief description of your work, include ideas such as what you modeled it after and what particularly interesting things you discovered about it during your research. On Project Night (January 19, 2012), you should be prepared to discuss your project and answer questions about the topic or idea upon which you based it. Remember to include your name and some sort of title for your project such as “Medieval Castle.”

