**Creating a Country Project**

**Directions:** Following our time discussing the key principles of government in class, we will take our newly acquired knowledge and apply it to a group project. For this project you will be placed in a group along with four to six of your classmates. Together you will have the opportunity to create your own country. This project will test your combined knowledge of government systems, creativity, along with your critical thinking and leadership skills. You will be given just over two class periods to complete this project and produce an amazing new country.

**A few rules first about your country**:

1. Your country must be located somewhere on the surface of the Earth. You can create an island or you can place your country between real countries if you like but it must have a physical location.
2. The climate and vegetation must be realistic based on the location of your country. You cannot have a tropical forest in a desert.
3. Your group must have detailed responses to the list of questions provided.
4. You must also include everything on the rubric provided in order to receive full credit.

**This project has several parts. It is important that you use your time wisely in order to successfully complete the assignment.**

**Task I: *The Country***

When creating your new country be creative but just remember that you must fully address all of the topics on the rubric in order to receive full credit. Task one asks you to complete eight questions in detail about your country. Please answer these questions in clearly written complete sentences. The questions must be answered on the questionnaire page provided to you and glued to the back of your countries map.

**Task II: *The Map***

In order to create your map each group will be given a sheet of chart paper. Your map should highlight the major political and geographic features of your country. Be sure to include the following on your map to receive full credit:

* **A Key**-Highlighting important features within the map (ex. mountains, rainforest, roads ect.)
* **A Compass Rose**-Showing the four cardinal directions (North, South, East and West) located in the lower right-hand corner
* **Your Capital City**-It should be marked with a star
* **Additional Cities**-Include five to seven additional cities that exist within your nations boundaries
* **Transportation Hubs**-Include at least one airport, train station and express way
* **Geographic Features**-Include any unique geographic features located in your country (ex. rivers, forests, oceans etc.) **\*Be sure to name these geographic features**

**Task III: *The Flag***

Your group will also be responsible creating flag for your country. Each group will be given a 8x11 sheet of white paper. The flag should be about the size of the page. While creating your countries flag **be sure to check the rubric for all necessary components**. Be sure to include any important symbols, colors or patterns that are unique to your country. On the back of the flag please neatly write a paragraph (4-6 sentences) explaining your flag and why you made the specific design choices on it.

**Task IV: *Choice Topics***

**You will choose one of the following options to complete for the fourth task.**

**Option #1**: “**Immigration Test**”–Create a twenty to twenty-five-question test that someone immigrating to your country would take to become a resident. You must use all four question types: Multiple choice, true/false, Matching, and Fill in the Blank. The test must be written neatly in test format on a lined sheet of paper. Include an answer key and “study guide” for immigrants to study to pass the test.

**Option #2**: “**Native Language**”–Create a chart of your country’s alphabet and numerical system. Think Rosetta Stone, if you don’t know what the Rosetta Stone is I urge you to research it! Also include ten words written using your countries alphabet and be sure to translate the words into English.

**Option #3**: “**Important Occupations**”–Identify four different jobs or occupations that are typical or unique to your country. These should be jobs not found in the United States. Each job or occupation should consist of one paragraph (4-6 sentences). Explain what the job is in detail, who normally performs the job, why the job is important, and how the job contributes or helps your countries society or economy. This is a fun way to show me what your country is all about. These jobs can be silly or serious, but they have to be school appropriate.

**Task V: *Group Contribution***

Not only will you be graded on the criteria in your rubric, you will also be graded on your contribution to your group. Included in this packet is the Record of Group Work, which must be signed and completed by every member in the group, and turned in with the rest of your project. Each student’s grade will reflect not only the project, but how much they contributed to their group work. ***I reserve the right to deduct points from a student’s total project grade if I feel a student did not contribute to the group’s overall effort in the project.***

**Task IV: *The Presentation***

After you are finished with all the hard work, you are going to present your work to the class. Your presentation will be over the country you have created. You will use your maps and any other visual aids you have created to help you. Your presentation will be no more than 10 minutes long. Be sure to leave some time for questions. You will practice good oral presentation techniques including speaking clearly and with good volume. You will not just read your presentation from a paper or note cards, although you may use them as an aid.

**Task I: *The Country***

**Directions:** Please answereach of the following eightquestions in detailabout your country. The questions ***MUST*** be answered in full sentences, it may take multiple sentences to answer each question, so be sure to give detailed answers. If you run out of space you may ask for additional paper.

1. **What is the name of your country**?
2. **Where is your country located**? **\*Discuss it’s specific geographic location**
3. **Describe the physical geography of your country:** Does it have mountains? Is it an island?, Is it landlocked?, Does it have multiple regions? Etc.
4. **Describe the climate and vegetation of your country:** What kind of weather does your country normally get?, Is it cold and snowy?, Is it dry and hot?, Is it wet and humid?, Is it a tropical region?, Is it a desert?, Does it have rain forests?. Remember to take your countries physical geography (aka where it’s located on the planet) into account when discussing its climate.
5. **Describe the population of your country:** Where do people live?, why do they live there?, Does your country have a huge population or a very small one?, Is your countries population growing? Why or why not?, Do people in your country migrate a lot or do they stay put?
6. **Describe your countries cultural traits:** What kind of work do they do?, What are their beliefs?, Do they have any interesting ways of doing things?, What kinds of food do they eat?, What is the language of your country?, Do they have multiple languages?, Are there any challenges to your country’s culture or cultures?
7. **Describe the religion of your country’s people**: How does the population break down in terms of men and women? What is the median age of the population? What is the ethnic makeup of your country? What is the dominant religion of the region?, You may be very creative when discussing who lives in your country.
8. **Describe the religion of your country’s political system**: What kind of political system does your country have? Is it a monarchy with a king and queen?, Is it a dictatorship with an all-powerful ruler?, Is your country governed by one big central government or is it run by many smaller governments at local levels?

**Create a Country-Rubric**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Task I: *The Country*** | **Possible Points** | **Points Earned** |
| 1. All eight questions are thoughtfully answered | **8** |  |
| **Task II: *The Map*** |  |  |
| 1. **Map** is neatly drawn and colored | **10** |  |
| 1. **A Key**-Highlighting important features within the map (ex. mountains, rainforest, roads ect.) | **5** |  |
| 1. **A Compass Rose**-Showing the four cardinal directions (North, South, East and West) located in the lower right-hand corner | **5** |  |
| 1. **Your Capital City**-It should be marked with a star | **5** |  |
| 1. **Additional Cities**-Include five to seven additional cities that exist within your nations boundaries | **5** |  |
| 1. **Transportation Hubs**-Include at least one airport, train station and express way | **5** |  |
| **Geographic Features**-Include any unique geographic features located in your country (ex. rivers, forests, oceans etc.) | **5** |  |
| **Task III: *The Flag*** |  |  |
| 1. The flag is neatly drawn and is an original design | **10** |  |
| 1. Flag is colorful (At least one color included) | **5** |  |
| 1. Flag contains at least one symbol | **5** |  |
| 1. Your paragraph (4-6 sentences) explaining your flag and why you made the specific design choices on it is clear, concise and well-articulated. | **20** |  |
| **Task IV: *Choice Topics*** |  |  |
| 1. You must choose one of the three choice topic options to complete for the fourth task. All requirements described in the option paragraph must be completed for full credit. | **20** |  |
| 1. Work is neatly organized , detailed and descriptive | **5** |  |
| **Task V: *Group Work*** |  |  |
| 1. Each student’s grade will reflect not only the project, but how much they contributed to their group work. | **15** |  |
| **Task VI: *Presentation*** |  |  |
| 1. After you are finished with all the hard work, you are going to present your work to the class. | **22** |  |
|  | **Total Possible Points** | **Total Points Received** |
|  | **150** |  |

**Record of Group Work** – Use this sheet to record the work completed by each member of your group. This record sheet must be turned in on the day of your presentation, and it must be signed and dated by each member of your group.

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| **Group Member’s Name** | **Tasks** |
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**Signatures:** By signing this form, you agree with the record of the work noted above.

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**Create a Country Project-Presentation Rubric**

Group # \_\_\_\_\_

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| **Topic** | **Expectation** | **Score** |
| **I. The Country** | Explain important information about your country using the eight questions provided in the folder. \*You do not have to explain all eight but highlight the important info |  |
| **II. The Map** | Discuss the layout of your country, the reason you chose the geographic and political features that exist in your country. Also discuss any important information that would make your country an enticing location to visit. |  |
| **III. The Flag** | Discuss the inspiration behind the creation of your flag. Share the key elements that makes your countries flag unique. |  |
| **IV. Topic Choice** | Explain the additional component (Immigration Test, Language or Occupation) that you chose to include in your project. Share all important and relevant information that your audience needs to know. |  |
| **V. Participation** | Each member of your group needs to be an active part of your presentation. |  |
|  | **Total Points** | **/22** |

