

Forging a Nation - Culture, Maps, and a Presentation!

Mr. Kersey's 3rd Quarter Geography Project

Important! Keep this packet! Do not lose this packet! Read every single word in this packet!

This packet belongs to: _____ **Class:** _____

My project is due and will be presented on March _____, 2004. (Presentations will be between 3/22 and 3/31).

Note: This paper is super important. You must keep it safe. It has virtually all of the directions you need to complete this project. I will not give out extra copies of these instructions. I promise you that if you read these directions, you'll have an easier time completing the project, so read them. Really. I'm not kidding.

Introduction:

For this project, which will be a major portion of your third quarter grade, you are going to tie in the skills and concepts you have learned in our first unit with the new information you are learning in our current unit: **Europe and Russia**. You are going to *create your own, fictitious country*. You are going to give your country its own culture, complete with language, religion, and customs. You are going to describe your country's physical geography by creating a map. You will discuss how your country's climate, physical geography, vegetation, etc. has affected the development of culture.

After you have created your own country, you are going to *compare and contrast* your country with a real country located in Europe. You will discuss how the culture, physical geography, climate, etc. of your country and a real European state differ or are the same. You will need to do a little research on your real European country in order to answer these questions. Finally, you will present your information to your classmates.

In order to complete this project and do a good job, you will need to manage your time well, stay organized, and use all the skills you have learned so far. You will also have to learn and master new skills to help you.

Your project will be due on the day you present. You will sign up for a day to present your country.

Partners:

If you prefer, you may choose to complete this project with a partner or partners. You and your group will complete this project together instead of individually. You will still follow the directions below. Understand, however, that if you do decide to work with a group you will all earn the same grade. In other words, there will not be an individual grade for each person in a group. Also, the work you and your group do will be evaluated on the assumption that more than

one mind and more than one set of hands have completed this project, not just one, so you will be held to higher expectations for your completed work than students choosing to work on their own. Finally, once you decide to work with a partner or group, you may not change your mind.

Part I – The Country

My/Our goal is to have Part I completed by _____ (Recommended: 3/8).

Create a country. Use your imagination. You are to prepare a detailed description of your country by answering the following questions. The more detailed and in-depth your answers are, the more real your country will seem, and the better your project will turn out. You will then present your country, using these questions as a guide, to the class. Make sure your answers are consistent. Don't have a country with a desert climate located near the south pole. There is a fifteen page limit to this part of your paper.

1. What is the name of your country?
2. Where is your country located?
3. Describe the physical geography of your country. Does it have mountains? Is it an island? Is it landlocked? Does it have multiple regions?
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? Is it a desert? Does it have rain forests? Remember to take your country's physical geography into account when discussing its climate.
5. Discuss the natural resources found in your country. Do the people in your country have an abundant energy source, or are they required to import it? Do they have any resources to export? Do they mine for gold or diamonds?
6. Describe the population of your country. Where do people live? Why do they live there? Does your country have huge population, or a very small one? Is your country's population growing? Why or why not? Do people in your country migrate a lot or do they stay put?
7. Describe your country's cultural traits. What kinds 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?
8. Describe the religion of your country's people. Are they Christians? Are they Buddhist? Are they polytheistic?
9. Describe the social structure of your country's people. Are there social classes in your country? What are they? Is family important to the people of your country? If so, are nuclear or extended families more prevalent?
10. What kind of economic system do the people of your country use? Do they use capitalism, socialism, communism? Do they have their own unique system? What is the money called in your country? Do the people even use money?
11. What kind of political system does your country have? Is it a monarchy, a direct democracy, or a dictatorship? Is your country governed by one big central government or is it run by many smaller governments at the local level?

Part II – The Map

My/Our goal is to have Part II completed by: _____ (Recommended 3/15).

It just wouldn't be a geography project if there wasn't a map or two.

1. Draw map of your country. It *must* have a key, a scale, a compass rose, and any lakes, rivers, mountains, or other major physical features. It must show at least one city or town – your nation's capitol. It should show any borders it has with other countries. It should be *colorful*, creative, and neat. It should be large enough to present it to a group of people. Poster board size is a safe guide. Again - the more detail, the better.
2. You must also draw a smaller second map that displays your country's **population density**. It should indicate areas of higher and lower population density. It must have a key to indicate the different densities. This map should also be colorful, although not as detailed. It should be about the size of a piece of loose leaf paper, or larger. Remember to be consistent. You probably shouldn't have areas with really high population densities in the middle of a giant agricultural region.

Part III – The Research

My/Our goal is to have Part III completed by: _____ (Recommended 3/22).

Using the questions you answered in Part I as a guide, compare the similarities and differences that exist between your country and another *real* country of your choosing located in Europe. Answer the following questions in a paper, in paragraph form. Your answers should be about a paragraph or two for each question. Again, these answers should be typed, and the more detailed the answers the better. You should include a **bibliography** for your research. This paper should be at **least three but no more than five pages**.

1. I am comparing my country with _____.
2. Compare the physical geography of these two countries.
3. Compare the climate and vegetation of these two countries.
4. Compare the natural resources available in these two countries.
5. Compare the population size and distribution in these two countries.
6. Compare the major cultural traits of the people in these two countries including religion and social structure.
7. Compare the economic systems of these two countries.
8. Compare the political systems of these two countries.

To answer these questions correctly and completely you will need to do a little research. You should use **at least three sources** for your research. **One must be a website, and one must be a book other than an encyclopedia**. One of the purposes of this project is to help you sharpen your research skills.

Part IV – The Presentation

When you are all finished, and you have created the most fabulously realistic country known to humanity, and then compared that country to a real one located in Europe, you are going to share it all with your classmates. After all, what good is creating a country if you can't show it off. Your presentation should be about **10-12 minutes** long, which really isn't much time. **I will stop you at 12 minutes, so practice ahead of time.** You should make sure to discuss the more important details about your country, then discuss the comparisons you made with the real European country of your choice. Of course, you will also show off your cartographic stylings with your skillfully made maps. You may also use any additional visual aids you have created. On the day of your presentation, you will turn in your completed project.

The Final Product:

Your typed, proofread answers to the questions in Parts I and III are to be turned in, along with your maps, on the day you present your country and research to your peers. Your name(s) should be on a **cover page**, along with the **name of your fictitious country, the date, and your class.** All of this should be **stapled** together in the **upper left-hand corner.** No report covers please. Feel free to embellish your descriptions with pictures, maps, sketches, models, or whatever else you come up with.

The Rubric:

Your work on this project will be evaluated according to the following guidelines. Read this rubric carefully and pay attention to the point value for each item. Do not spend too much time on something of relatively low value and ignore points that are worth more.

Part I – The Country

The description of your country is detailed and creative. Facts and details about your country are *consistent* and *thorough*. You answer all necessary questions for each aspect (natural resources, political system) of your country *completely* and *in detail*. You only get one shot at this in your presentation, so make sure you are prepared. **75 points.**

Part II – The Map

The main presentation map of your country is colorful, detailed, neat, and creative. It must demonstrate effort. It has all major landforms, cities, etc. It is free of spelling errors. **50 points.**

Your population density is drawn correctly, and it is consistent with your country's description. It is free of spelling errors. It is readable and clear. **25 points.**

Part III – The Research

Each of your comparisons is *complete* and *accurate*. You mention all significant similarities and differences between your country and your research country. You present your comparisons in the proper format. Your answers are *free of spelling or grammatical errors*. You have at least 3 *resources* for your research, including one book and one website. You properly document your resources, and can explain your research methods should you be asked to do so. **75 points.**

Part IV – The Presentation

This part is based on how well you present your work. You may have all the answers, but you could still not present them well. Therefore, your presentation is organized and coherent. You are able to answer any reasonable questions about your country and your research country. Your presentation includes key points about your country and a comparison to your research country. Make sure you practice your presentation before hand, to make sure it is not too long. **50 points.**

This project is worth 275 points total. (The equivalent of about three chapter tests).

Some useful Websites to help you get going:

?? The CIA's World Fact Book: <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/>

?? National Geographic: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/>

?? The Columbus Metropolitan Library: <http://www.cml.lib.oh.us/>