

Explorers, Then and Now

Scenario:

The Smithsonian Institute and Museums plans to create a new gallery in the Air and Space Museum placing the exploration of space in historical context. The gallery will be titled, *Explorers, Then and Now*, comparing and contrasting astronauts with a great explorer of the past. Your team is a group of museum curators with expertise and experience in this area and is competing for the contract. A Display Committee appointed by the Board of Regents has issued a Request for Proposals. The Committee would like to see a multimedia presentation showing what you would include in such a display.

Possible topics to cover (these are only suggestions and are not a requirement for a superior presentation):

1. What criteria would you use to choose a great explorer?
2. What makes astronauts and the explorer you have selected great?
3. Describe one space mission and the exploration of the explorer from the past.
4. Compare the tools used by astronauts with the ones your explorer used.
5. Compare the costs vs. benefits, then and now.
6. What were the reasons for the expeditions, then and now?
7. How did the expedition of the past change things then?
8. Did that expedition change things in our time?
9. What was known about the world then and what was learned after the exploration?
10. How could you make this an interesting display?

Bibliography

Evernote allows you to capture information in any environment using whatever device or platform you find most convenient, and makes everything accessible and searchable at any time, from anywhere. Use Evernote to capture your ideas, snapshots, voice memos, things you see online, and just about anything else that you want to remember. They have free and subscription editions. <http://www.evernote.com/>

Be sure to have a printed bibliography to hand to the judges before you begin your presentation. You are encouraged to cite all of your sources including graphics. A simple web tool to organize your bibliography can be found at <http://citationmachine.net/>. You do not have to put your bibliography at the end of your PowerPoint.

Grade 5 2011 Resources

Explorers, Then and Now

Possible Sources

Newspapers, historians, scientists, videos, the Internet, encyclopedias, history textbooks, and the ERS Portal (<http://www.erslibrary.org>).

Online Sources

Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery: <http://www.npg.si.edu/exhibit/origins/index.html>

A presentation on American Origins from 1600-1900, including reasons why each European country decided to pursue exploration in the Americas.

Famous explorers library: <http://history.howstuffworks.com/north-american-history/famous-north-american-explorers.htm>

A library of articles on the many North American explorers and their stories.

Elizabethan era: <http://www.elizabethan-era.org.uk/>

The Age of Exploration, explorers, timelines, pirates, and other facts and information.

Enchanted Learning: www.enchantedlearning.com/explorers/namerica.shtml

General information on explorers.

Discoverers' Web: <http://www.win.tue.nl/~engels/discovery/northam.html>

This Explorers of North America page has many links to detailed articles, maps, and other internet resources.

Newfoundland and Labrador Heritage: <http://www.heritage.nf.ca/exploration/default.html>

This site contains not only exploration research, also cultural and economic background information for the exploration period.

EBSCO's History...It's Happening:

<http://www.ebscohost.com/flashPromo/historyhappenings/explorers.html>

North America's explorers: Contains detailed articles, letters written to and from explorers, Presidential instructions to explorers, et al.

National Air and Space Museum: <http://www.nasm.si.edu/etp/> - Planetary exploration information and links; <http://www.nasm.si.edu/exhibitions/attm/attm.html> - Details on the Apollo missions; <http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/index.cfm> - Solar system exploration.

NASA Programs and Projects: <http://www.nasa.gov/exploration/home/index.html>

Articles on space and planetary exploration.

Space Exploration: <http://www.space-exploration.org/>

Web site with pages on space exploration benefits, history, timelines, and technology.