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Dear Parents,
      During the month of February as a class we will be observing Black History Month through a reading and writing unit of study. Throughout this unit of study, students will be learning about some very famous African Americans and their role in History. Each students will be able to choose a famous African American to study and complete a biography project. We will be writing a report on each student's famous person, creating a timeline, developing a poetry project, and presenting everything we have learned about our famous African American. Within reading workshop students will also be reading biographies on their person of choice. In this packet is an outline of reading and writing projects we will be engaging in as a class.

      Black History Month, occurs each February. This is a month dedicated to celebrating and remembering the history, accomplishments, and triumphs of black American culture. According to Biography.com, Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Rev. Jesse E. Moorland wanted to highlight the often-overlooked role black people played in both American and world history. Black History Month is now widely recognized and celebrated throughout the month of February.

      I will be guiding students through each step of the research process on their biography study. As a high ability class, we are moving beyond the third grade writing standards and incorporating history, literature, and the multiple intelligences into this project. The biography study will be in place of book projects for the month of February. Each item in this packet will be taught in class and student will be completing on their own in class. The only part of this project that will need to be prepared for will be the speech about your child's famous person.

Thanks,
Mrs. Decker

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Biography Project Directions
File Folder Report

Your Name _____

Famous Person _____

Written Report Due: Speeches Begin: _____

File Folder Report:
Front Cover: Attach the drawing of your famous person
Inside Left Cover: Attach your timeline and any photos
Inside Right: Staple at the top all pages of the written report
Back Cover: Glue the "Important Poem" for your famous person and any photos
File Folder Tab: Write the famous person's name and your name

Background Information on the Person
You will need to read and locate information from three sources:
1. Biography novel (given out in class)
2. Encyclopedia (on-line or print)
3. Internet source

Famous Person Drawing
Draw a picture in color of your famous person on the paper
Provided. Decorate the background of the drawing of your
Person if you wish. Label your person's full name in large neat
lettering and dates of birth and death. Write your first and last
name and date in small lettering the lower right corner of the paper.
Timeline
Use the read, write, think program or technology computer program to draw a timeline
with at least 6 important events in your person's life.
http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/timeline/index.html

http://www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/materials/bigtimeline/

Written Report
Use Google Apps. or write your final copy in your best printing about your famous
person. Include information in a logical order:
• Where was this person born? In what year?
• Where did this person grow up?
• What does/did this person do for a living?
• Why is this person famous? What did/does this person do to become famous?
• How has this person made an impact on others' lives?
• Quotes and interesting information about the person
• Fill out the bibliography information sheet showing the sources used and attach it as the
last page of your report.

Important Book Poem
Margaret Wise Brown was the author of a book entitled The Important Book.
Use this as a model and write a poem entitled "The Important Thing" using your
famous person as the subject of the poem.

Example:

The important thing about_____ is that he _____. (what he is
famous for)
He _____ . (list one thing he did)
He _____ . (list another thing he did)
He _____. (list a third thing he did)
But the important thing about is that he was _____ . (what he is famous for)

Here is an example poem:
The important thing about Sir Francis Drake is that he was an English explorer.
He was the first Englishman to circumnavigate the world.
He followed secret orders from Queen Elizabeth as a pirate who attacked Spanish ships
and towns.
He later became Vice-Admiral of the English navy as commanded by the queen.
But, the most important thing about Sir Francis Drake is that he defeated the Spanish
Armada and kept England safe.

Public Speaking Monologue
This activity will give you an opportunity to meet your benchmark in public
speaking. You will dress up (as much as you can) as your person and pretend
you <u>are</u> the person. You will tell all about your contributions, and about your life.
You will need to rehearse at home.   Speeches will begin in January right after
Christmas break. You will sign up for a time to give your presentation.
Remember you will be scored for:
 C   Content - important details included
 O   Organization - a clear beginning, middle, and end
 L   Language - appropriate and interesting words and language
 D   Delivery – good eye contact, volume and body posture

Student Name _____
Biography Notes

Famous person _____

Date of Birth_____   Place of Birth_____

Date of Death_____   Place of Death_____

Family & Childhood Information _____

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What did this person do for a living? _____

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Hobbies and Interests:_____

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Biography Notes page 2

Major Accomplishments - Why the person is famous _____

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How has this person made an impact on others' lives? _____

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Interesting Information & Other Facts _____

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Famous Quotes by this Person _____

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Student Name _____

Bibliography of Sources Used

Book:

Book Title:_____

Author:_____

Name of Publisher:_____

Place Published:_____

Date Published:_____

On-Line Encyclopedia:

On-line Encyclopedia Title:_____

Internet Address www._____

Date you used this site_____

Internet Web site:
Internet web site title:_____

Internet address www._____

Date you used this site_____

Other Sources:

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