

GRAPHICA!

Comic Colonists!

Big 6 Step

#1

Task Definition:
"What am I
supposed
to do?"

This project will be in collaboration with Social Studies, Reader's Workshop, Writer's Workshop, Art, and Library! In Social Studies, you will be learning about the colonial period in American history, In Reading, you are focusing on the genre of biography, and in Writing, you are focusing on report writing. In the library, you have learned about the conventions of graphica: utilizing panels and gutters, speech and thought bubbles, pictures and lettering to convey information in a comic format.

For this assignment, you will work in pairs or small groups to create a graphic biography on a colonist. You will study and research the background information, setting, and time period and include this information in narrative boxes. You will research the life of a colonist and portray for the reader the significance of this person through the speech and thought bubbles of the colonist's dialogue. You will illustrate or find existing artwork to tell in conjunction with the words, the story of your colonist. You will work in class, in the library, and at home to do your research. The final project will be done on Comic Life, an Apple application. Your graphic biography should be at least four pages long with an additional cover and a bibliography page.

For the complete rubric, [click here](#).

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#2

Information Seeking Strategies:
"What resources can I use?"

First, brainstorm as many resources as you can that you can use to get information on the colonial time period in general and your colonist in particular.

Some ideas:

- non-fiction books
- biographies
- videos
- encyclopedias
- Internet sources such as district databases
- interview

Can you think of others?

Next, prioritize your resources by what you think will help you most.

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#3

Location & Access:
"Where can I find what I need?"

Non-fiction books: In the library, most books on the colonial period will be in the 973.2 Dewey section. You can use the following keywords when searching on the OPAC: colonies, colonists, thirteen colonies, colonial period. Remember to use the table of contents and index to find the information you need in the books!

Biographies: In our school library, biographies are in the 92 or 920 (collective biography) Dewey section. Some libraries catalog them as B, BIO, or 921

Encyclopedias: Text encyclopedias are in reference (REF 031) section

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Location &
Access:
"Where can I find
what I need?"

Videos: Videos are housed in the AV section of libraries under the same Dewey classifications as the non-fiction books and biographies: VR or DVD 973.2, 92, 921, 920, BIO... In our library, all videos are streamed through Safari Montage, so ask your teacher to view these. Be sure to take notes and write down the information needed for your bibliography.

Online Resources: District databases are listed on the library website. Ask Mrs. Miller for the user names and passwords. On the Grolier Online database, click on the top right corner to access Grolier Kids. On the Gale database, scroll down to the bottom to access Kids Edition and Kids InfoBits. On the Proquest database, click on E-library Elementary, and the History Resource Center.

Mrs. Miller also has put together some electronic resources under the American History link on the 5th grade student page on the library website. Here you will find biographies, interactive games, and Thinkquest sites to give you information. Be sure to cite your sources you use here for your bibliography.

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#4

Use of
Information:
"What information
should I use?"

Now you need to engage your source. That means if it is a book, you need to read it; if it is a video, you need to watch it. If it is an exhibit in a museum, you need to view it... Remember to use your keywords, table of contents, and index to find the information you **NEED** in your source. Take your "Trash 'N Treasure" notes to write down the important information. On the student page of the library website, under "Graphic Organizers," there are 2 biography graphic organizers for you to use to help you collect your notes.

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#5

Synthesis:
"What can I make to finish the job?"

Now you need to put all the pieces together to create your project.

First, organize your notes. Collect your biography graphic organizers and any other notes you have taken. Read over them to get an idea of the significance of your colonist's life and what you want to say and show in your graphic biography.

Next, make a rough draft template of your biography. Decide how many panels you will need on each page, what your speech or thought bubbles will say, and what information you will need in the narrative boxes to give the background information, time period, or setting.

Create your illustrations for each panel and turn in to Mrs. Miller to be scanned in and saved on your flash drive.

Use the bibliography help sheets on the student page of the library website to help you cite your sources that you used. You may also use Noodlebib from the library website to create your bibliography.

Finally, create your graphic masterpieces using Comic Life on the Apple laptops!

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#6

Evaluation:
"How will I know I did my job well?"

Before you turn in your final product, review the rubric. Did you do everything you need to get full points? Is your work clean, spelled correctly, with correct grammar? Is there anything you should do before you turn it in? Are you proud of your work? GREAT!