# Geography/Social Studies

Choose one topic.

- use a variety of references and resources to find out as much as you can about the topic you have chosen

- gather facts about the topic and related and relevant topics

Prepare a project with three parts:

- part 1 – written work

  - gather and write the facts
  - write a report, essay, letter, speech, informational brochure, article
  - do not include opinions or fictional statements

- part 2 – visual work

  - create a visual display to supplement the written work
  - make a poster, mural, timeline, model, diorama, newspaper
  - label all important parts
  - include labels or information necessary to explain the display

- part 3 – oral work

  - prepare a presentation for the class
  - speech, report, essay, letter, announcement, interview
  - include facts and interesting information
  - include your opinion, being certain that the audience is aware of your own opinions and thoughts about the project
  - give the oral presentation in front of the class or any audience
  - be prepared to answer questions about your project

- challenge/enrichment

  - prepare a "test" for the audience
  - ask the audience to write a short critique of your presentation
  - with another student who has chosen the same topic, compare and contrast the information you found and used

# Geography/Social Studies

Pittsburgh Coal Seam
- location: along the Allegheny Mountains
    from eastern Ohio to western Maryland
    through Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland
- size: largest coal seam in the region
    70 miles long
    5,729 square miles
- at its most productive, provided almost 80% of the coal for western PA
- explain the topographical reasons for the development of the coal seam
- explain the importance of this coal seam for the region's steel industry

Waste products from the coal mines and coal industries
- gob piles (boney piles, slate dumps)
- red dog
- coal tar
- scale
- identify the types of waste products and the sources
- explain how the waste was disposed
- explain the impact of the waste disposal on the environment
- explain the impact of the waste disposal on the coal industry

Coal Hill = Mt. Washington
- hills of the Pittsburgh region are approximately 300 million years old
- composed of sedimentary rock: shale, limestone, coal, sandstone
- identify location of Coal Hill (now called Mt. Washington)
- explain significance of the name, Coal Hill
- identify main source of transportation – 19 inclines on the hill, 22 in the region
- locate the 19 inclines on a map
- identify the 2 remaining inclines and explain their present-day use
- explain why mining in Coal Hill was suspended
- explain possible problems because of the mining of the area

The Donora Inversion
- started October 26, 1948
- cool air trapped by warm air above it
- kept pollution from dispersing: fluoride emissions from nearby steel plants
- 20 people died within a few days
- 50 more died within a month
- 40% of the people living in Donora became ill from the pollution
- called the "Donora Death Fog"

Land Along the Three Rivers
- identify and locate the three rivers: Monongahela, Allegheny, Ohio
- identify the major tributaries, especially the Youghiogheny and Kiski Rivers
- identify the use of barge traffic for transportation of coal from local mines
- describe the "flats" – valuable land for factory use
- describe the "slopes" – hillside land for homes for the laborers
- locate and identify the early coal mines on and in the slopes
- unusual transportation provided by steps and inclines

The Three Rivers
- present courses of the rivers here for approximately 12,000 years
- identify past courses and possible reasons for course changes
- locate the sources and mouths of each river
- Monongahela River
  - 127 miles long
  - from the Indian word: memaungehilla
  - word means high banks and crumbling bluffs
- Allegheny River
  - 385 miles long
  - from the Indian word: Allegwihanna
  - word means stream of the Allegwi (a local tribe)
- Ohio River
  - 981 miles long
  - from the Delaware Indian word: Ohiopeekhanne
  - ohio means water whitened by the froth
  - peekhanne means mainstream
- explain the significance of the rivers for the region
- explain the importance of the rivers for the steel industry, especially the
- delivery of coal for use in steel production
- explain the importance of the rivers for the region's economy
- locate the Youghiogheny and Kiski Rivers as tributaries to the system
- explain the significance of the tributaries for the region
- explain the importance of the tributaries for the coal and steel industries
- explain the importance of the tributaries for the region's economy

Early Employees
- prepare a report from the point-of-view of the coal owners/operators
- discuss and explain the rationale for hiring immigrant workers
- compare and contrast the pros and cons of employing immigrant workers instead of citizens
- explain the owners' point-of-view when discussing union demands
  - salaries, safety issues, health care, company stores and fees

Immigration
- early miners worked in unsafe conditions for low wages and poor health care
- mining jobs were often given to immigrant workers
- compare/contrast the use of immigrant workers in place of citizens
- main countries of immigration

  | - Italy | - England | - Greece |
  |---------|-----------|----------|
  | - Lithuania | - Scotland | - Germany |
  | - Romania | - Wales | - Czechoslovakia |
  | - Poland | - Ireland | - others |

- identify and locate the countries
- prepare a report as to the main reasons for the wave of immigration from a particular country
- discuss the difficulties faced by immigrant workers
- explain the impact of immigrant settlers on the local economy, especially farm workers

Early Employees
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- discuss and explain the rationale for hiring immigrant workers
- compare and contrast the pros and cons of employing immigrant workers instead of citizens
- explain the owners' point-of-view when discussing union demands
  - salaries, especially low wages
  - safety issues, in the mines and in related industries
  - health care, for workers and their families
  - shanty towns, especially for families in the event of a miner's death
  - company stores and the requirement to shop there

Early History
- research early mining techniques, including the employees, jobs, supplies, and equipment
- research the early unionization movement and the development of unions as an important organization for miners
- research the Industrial Revolution in the United States, and discuss how it affected coal mining and the coal industry
- research early groups or organizations that were involved in the early coal mining industry and industrialization of the United States
  - pinkertons
  - Wobblies
  - Iron and Coal Police
  - national guard
  - state police
  - Molly Maguires

Economy
- research early coal mining and its development in the United States
- discuss and explain the effect of coal mining on the local economy, Local jobs, and family life
- explain the salaries and wages, safety issues, health care, widows' difficulties, shanty towns, company store policies, and other parts of life that were affected by the jobs in the coal mines
- use the research by Lewis Hine and others to find out about the issue of child labor

Geography
- locate bituminous and anthracite coal mines
  - Pennsylvania locations
  - United States locations
  - Worldwide locations
    - North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia (all continents except Antarctica)