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 and steel industries
* gob piles (boney piles, slate dumps)
* slag heaps/slag 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 steel 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 the three rivers: Monongahela, Allegheny, Ohio
        * identify the major tributaries, especially the Youghiogheny and Kiski Rivers
        * locate the rivers on a map
        * describe the "flats" – valuable land for factory use
        * describe the "slopes" – hillside land for homes for the laborers
        * 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
        * 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 steel industry
        * explain the importance of the tributaries for the region's economy

The New York World's Fair
        * 1964-1965
        * the Unisphere built and donated by U.S. Steel
        * size: 12 stories high and 900,000 lbs.
        * explain significance of the Unisphere

The St. Louis Arch
* located in St. Louis, Missouri
* in the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial park
* park established December 21, 1935
* arch construction – architect: Eero Saarinen
- began 1961
- finished 1965
- dedicated 1966
* arch specifications
- 630 feet high
- foundation 60 feet each
- 630-foot span at the base
- arch curve called a catenary curve

Forbes Field
* first baseball park built entirely of concrete and steel
* was located in Oakland section of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
* named for General John Forbes
* construction
- broke ground March 1, 1909
- opened June 30, 1909
- closed June 28, 1970
- demolished July 28, 1971
* owners
- 1909-1958: Pittsburgh Pirates
- 1958-1971: University of Pittsburgh
* tenants
- 1909-1970: Pittsburgh Pirates
- 1939-1948: Homestead Grays
- 1933-1963: Pittsburgh Steelers
* first home run hit over the double-deck right field wall at Forbes Field
- May 25, 1935
- Babe Ruth's final career home run
* most famous home run hit at Forbes Field
- Bill Mazeroski
- home run to win the 1960 World Series

National Radio Astronomy Center
* located in West Virginia
* contains a steel ball-bearing measuring 40-feet in diameter
* controls a large tracking telescope