**To Kill a Mockingbird**

**Social and Historical Context Presentations**

One of the strengths of this novel is that the characters and themes within it are still poignant and relevant today despite the fact that is was published over forty years ago. That being said, in order to truly understand the complexity of the novel, it is essential that we have some understanding of the social and political environment of 1930’s in the southern United States (the setting of the novel). It is also essential to understand the world of the author, Harper Lee. The social and cultural upheaval of the civil rights movement in the late 50’s and early 60’s clearly influenced her views on social justice, race, culture, class and gender.

**You will be in a group of 6 students. Individually, you will be responsible for researching one of the following topics and presenting your findings to the group:**

1. **Harper Lee- her life (someone in your group MUST choose this)**
2. The Great Depression –economic and social effects
3. Jim Crow Laws
4. The American Civil War/Slavery
5. Mob Violence/ mob style justice/lynching **OR**
6. The Ku Klux Clan
7. Rosa Parks and the Montgomery bus boycott **OR**
8. Martin Luther King/The Civil Rights Movement **OR**
9. Little Rock Nine

**(Day one) Padlet- Each person will contribute to the padlet**

* Your name
* Bold title of your topic
* Point form notes that answer the questions provided
* Use ONE entry- may be long with lots of info but too many boxes otherwise.
* 1-2 other facts you think are relevant
* Be mindful of space; therefore, be mindful of your word count.
* An image or two that symbolizes your topic
* Thoughtful, insightful questions after a presentation if desired. Post to the padlet close to the information addressed.
* Self -assessment

**(Day two) The Presentation- in your group:**

* Approximately 5 minutes long
* Summarize the findings of your research on this historical event/person/issue
* Use padlet as your “poster”. All your work will be saved onto one document and you can share your information immediately. The rest of the students are to be looking at the shared padlet while the individual is presenting.

**Questions**

**The American Civil War/Slavery**

1. When did the Civil War begin and end?
2. Who were the two opposing sides in the war and what were their basic beliefs concerning slavery?
3. Why did the white southerners support slavery?
4. What happened as a result of Abraham Lincoln being elected president of the United States?
5. Who won the Civil War? What Act of Congress did the victors introduce?
6. After the war, how did the white southerners feel about Blacks?

**Jim Crow Laws**

1. What are the Jim Crow Laws? When were they initiated, and who initially implemented them?
2. List 5 of the most discriminatory laws (in your opinion)
3. Did Jim Crow Laws exist before the Civil War? Why or why not?
4. What purpose did the whites have in implementing these laws?
5. Name some of the practical consequences of these laws.

**The Montgomery Bus Boycott/Rosa Parks**

1. Describe the timing of the Bus Boycott, both in terms of the actual dates and the setting.
2. What specific laws and social rules were broken by the boycott?
3. Who was Rosa Parks and what specifically did she do?
4. What were the events leading up to the boycott? Was it spontaneous or planned?
5. What was the reaction of the white people to the Rosa Parks incident, both at the time and later?

**The Great Depression**

1. What was the Great Depression and when did it happen?
2. Discuss some of the implications of the depression in terms of things like social change and job security. What meant it have meant for Black and White relations?
3. What kinds of strategies did the government employ to try and end the depression?
4. What was the impact of the depression in rural areas as opposed to cities?
5. How does the depression we are going through today differ from this one?

**Little Rock Nine**

1. Who were these nine people?
2. Why did white people try and prevent them from entering the school?
3. Who tried to block the Little Rock Nine from attending the school?
4. What was the reaction of the US government?
5. What impact did the Little Rock Nine have on the Civil Rights movement?

**Martin Luther King Jr./The Civil Rights Movement**

1. Who was King and when and where was he born?
2. What did King say was the enemy of the black people and what did he say could breach the divide between blacks and whites? How did these opinions differ from those of Malcolm X?
3. As King’s popularity grew, what happened in the south?
4. When and how did King die and how did people react to his death?
5. What is the Civil Rights Movement and what impact did King’s life and death have on it?

**The Klu Klux Klan**

1. What is the KKK? Who started it and when and how did it begin?
2. What was the philosophy and purpose of the Klan and what steps did they take towards their goals?
3. Who joined the Klan and why?
4. What was the Klan’s impact and how did Blacks and whites feel about them and their existence?
5. Does the Klan still exist today and if so, what does it look like and does it differ from the original Klan? How or why/not?

**Mob Mentality/Lynching**

1. What is lynching?
2. Who did the lynching and why?
3. Describe the case of Emmett Till and its impact on both blacks and whites in America.
4. Do we know how many people were lynched in the USA from the civil war onwards? (explain why or why not)
5. Are there any recent cases of lynching today? If so, explain in brief.

**Harper Lee- her life**

1. Where and when was Harper Lee born?
2. What did her father do as a living?
3. Her father was a lawyer in a court case that probably inspired her to write this book. Explain.
4. Where is Harper Lee now?
5. How do you think Harper Lee’s life influenced her view on black and white relations?

**Assessment for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Self-Assessment:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Completely/All the Time** | **For the most part** | **Somewhat** | **Not at all** |
| **Respect**: I listened to my team members when they presented and did not interrupt unless to clarify a point |  |  |  |  |
| **Research**: I found and analyzed sources and took thorough notes. |  |  |  |  |
| **Padlet Construction**:  I participated in putting together the padlet and used my space respectfully. I posted thoughtful questions |  |  |  |  |
| **Delivery/Organization**:  Was able to deliver material in five minutes  Presents information in logical, interesting sequence which audience can follow and speaks in a clear voice |  |  |  |  |

I think I deserve \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out of /10 based on the information above