

Musher Research Project

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Discipline/Subject: ELA - Reading, writing, speaking

Topic: Musher Research Project (Using Flags, Google Slides/Powerpoint, and/or Photospeak)

Grade Level: Any

Resources/References/Materials Teacher Needs:

- www.iditarod.com - use the musher tab to get to the information
- Photospeak app
- Precut "flags" for musher research
- Musher research graphic organizer paper

Lesson Summary:

- This lesson introduces students to the musher they will be tracking during the race by allowing them to do research about their musher, decorate a flag with facts, create a PPT/Google Slides presentation, and/or use the Photospeak app to create their project

Standards Addressed:

Ohio Writing Standards - Grade 3:

- W.3.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
 - a. Introduce a topic and group related information together; include illustrations to aid comprehension, if needed.
 - b. Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details.
 - c. Use linking words and phrases (e.g., also, another, and, more, but) to connect ideas within categories of information.
- W.3.4 With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose.
- W.3.5 With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing.
- W.3.6 With guidance and support from adults, use technology to produce and publish writing (using keyboarding skills), as well as to interact and collaborate with others.
- W.3.7 Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

Ohio Speaking and Listening Standards - Grade 3

- SL.3.4 Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace.

- SL.3.5 Create engaging audio recordings of stories or poems that demonstrate fluid reading at an understandable pace; add visual displays when appropriate to emphasize or enhance certain facts or details
- SL.3.6 Speak in complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification.

Learning Objectives:

- Students will conduct research to learn about a musher in this year's Iditarod
- Students will create a flag/Google Slides/Powerpoint presentation using their research
- Students will create a multimedia presentation using Photospeak app to make their musher tell "about themselves" using the research

Assessment:

- Final product will be evaluated for writing mechanics and content
- Final Photospeak presentation will be assessed for correct grammar, fluency of reading and inflection

Procedural Activities:

- Begin by showing the class the different mushers on the Iditarod website - explore the layout and where to find information
- Look at some of their personal links to their kennels websites for additional information
- Explain to the students that they will be doing research on a musher they choose
- Have the students choose if they want a boy or a girl musher and then they pick randomly from a hat (presorted into 2 sets - male mushers & female mushers)
- Students pick a name and begin research on their musher using the outline included
- Students should be able to find (at minimum) the following information:
 - Name
 - Hometown
 - Age
 - Hobbies
 - Interesting facts
- Students then put their research into sentence form (rough draft)
- Once checked, students turn it into a flag to be hung in the hallway
- **Steps for creating the flag:**
 - Always do in pencil first
 - Flag should be divided into 5 sections (categories from above) and follow the order from above
 - After pencil is complete, trace over their writing in sharpie - including any pictures or decorations they drew
 - Then use crayon over each section



- **For the Google Slides/Powerpoint:**
 - Students create a “title page” slide with their name and musher’s name
 - Each slide then represents one section of the graphic organizer/flag
 - Students can include pictures from the various websites they used for research
 - They should include a map for the location of the musher’s hometown
 - Extra slides for any other information
 - Hyperlinks should be embedded in the final “Sources” page
- **For the Photospeak app:**
 - Students should use their information and put it into a paragraph for reading - pretending they are the musher talking - so in first person point of view
 - Students then use a picture of their musher to import into the app
 - Once they have practiced reading their paragraph a few times, record into the app
 - ***An option/extension for this would be to create a QR code to post in the hallway for other students or parents during conference night to see their student’s work

Materials Students Need:

- Sharpies
- Crayons
- Pencils
- Musher Research Graphic Organizer
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xXJq2OCzBShc9nNiGc_r6A8HsgNR5OaiXLeaqlfjX5g/edit?usp=sharing
- Internet access
- Photospeak app or similar app

Technology Used to Enhance Learning:

- Photospeak app
- Google Slides/Powerpoint
- www.iditarod.com website
- Individual musher websites (when available)
- QR Code generator

Other Information:

- N/A

Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities:

- Enrichment opportunities include expectation of greater detail in research, multiple presentation forms
- An option/extension for this would be to create a QR code to post in the hallway for other students or parents during conference night to see their student’s work - for either the Google Slides presentation or the Photospeak presentation