***To Kill a Mockingbird* – Mini Research Presentation**

Each group will research an aspect of the setting of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the 1930s, to gain a better understanding of the time and place to which it refers.

You will research your topic (some sources have been provided) using reliable sources and will create an ‘engaging’ google slide presentation on your topic. Be sure to answer the questions asked, but please feel free to add any other information you feel is appropriate.

Your presentation should be between 5 and 10 minutes in length. Your job is:

1. to teach the class about your topic
2. connect your topic to the novel

*HONORS: Once you have finished your mini research project, please write a 1.5 page reflection connecting the topic to the novel. Basically, how is your topic relevant to TKAM, even if it is not mentioned specifically.*

Life for Blacks in the South after the Civil War

**1) Jim Crow Laws: Their History, Guiding Policies, and Impact on Blacks**

a) Explain what Jim Crow Laws were and how, where, and why they originated. Who was Jim Crow? What were the original laws and policies?  
b) What impact did Jim Crow laws have on blacks and what rights did they violate? How did whites and states defend Jim Crow laws?

c) What connections do you see between Jim Crow laws and policies and the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*?

**2) The Ku Klux Klan: Its History and Methods of Instilling Fear**

a) Explain where the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) originated in the United States. What was its mission and who were its members? Provide significant historical facts about the group.  
b) What impact did the KKK have on life in America (particularly on blacks and minorities? What methods did the organization use in order to promote its agenda?

c) What influence did the KKK have on local governments and people in power? How does this influence connect to what you are reading in *To Kill a Mockingbird*?

**3) Plessy v. Ferguson: A Landmark Case and Its Impact on “Separate but Equal”**

a) Explain and summarize the case (who was involved, what the case was about, when it occurred, and what the final decision was)

b) Why was this case such a significant one in terms of its impact on life for blacks? How did it push the agenda of “separate but equal,” and how was this constitutional?

c) What connections do you see between the circumstances of this case and the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*?

**4) Lynching and Lynch Mobs: Citizen Enforcement of Jim Crow Laws and Nooses: Modern Day Symbolic Threats (the Jena Six) and Sundown Towns**

a) Give a brief history of lynchings in America and the origins of the lynch mob. What influence did they have on local governments and people in power?  
b) How did lynchings come to represent white hatred of blacks? Why were so many white people supportive of them? At their peak, how frequent were lynchings of black people by white lynch mobs in America? Where in the country were they most prominent? What were sundown towns? How were they connected to lynchings?

c) Explain the recent re-emergence of the symbols of lynching (the Jena Six and others). What effect has it had on racial tensions in America?

*Connection to novel?*

http://www.vahistorical.org/civilrights/jimcrow.htm  
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow  
http://docsouth.unc.edu/index.html  
http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/aap/aaphome.html (specifically “The Progress of a People” page with three sessions) http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/21/nyregion/21noose.html?\_r=1&oref=slogin

http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/11232007/profile2.html http://www.webenglishteacher.com/lee.html http://www.splcenter.org/ http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/98/mock/intro.html http://www.ferris.edu/jimcrow/links/misclink/plessy/ http://www.ferris.edu/jimcrow/what.htm http://www.landmarkcases.org/plessy/home.html http://www.umass.edu/complit/aclanet/ACLAText/USLynch.html http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/poets/g\_l/lynching/lynching.htm http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel/civilrights/change.htm

America and the World in the 1930s: The Time Period of To Kill a Mockingbird

**5) The Stock Market Crash and the Great Depression: The Impact on Economic Prosperity for Blacks and Whites in America**

a) What was Black Friday? What caused the stock market to crash? Had it happened before? Where and when? Could the stock market crash have been prevented? How?  
b) What impact did the stock market crash have on Americans and life in America? Explain some of the tragic events that occurred immediately after the crash.

c) Explain what the Great Depression was and its importance or prominence in American history. Who was president, and what policies affected the Great Depression?  
d) What factors led to the Great Depression? What was life like for Americans during the Great Depression? Who was hardest hit and how? What were some examples you can give to make the Great Depression real to today’s audience?

*Connection to novel?*

**6) The Dust Bowl: The Impact on Economic Prosperity for Blacks and Whites**

a) What was the Dust Bowl? Where did it take place and when? Who was directly affected by it?  
b) What impact did the Dust Bowl have on life in America? How is it connected to the Great Depression? Could it have been prevented? If so, how? Has anything been done since then to prevent it from happening again, or could it still happen?  
c) How did Herbert Hoover deal with this natural disaster and the people involved? What were Hoovervilles, and why were they called that? Who were the Okies? Explain the problems that arose in the country in places like California as a result of the Dust Bowl, the Okies, and migrant farming.

*Connection to novel?*

**7) Herbert Hoover vs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt: Two Presidencies, Two Policies, One Era in American History**

a) When was Herbert Hoover president? What condition was the country in when he started as President? What were his major policies as president (economic and domestic policies, specifically)? What major changes happened in the United States while Hoover was president? What condition was the country in when he left office? What was

his legacy as president (Hoovervilles and what he is remembered for)?  
b) When was FDR president? What condition was the country in when he started as president? What were his major policies as president (economic and domestic policies, specifically)? What major changes happened in the United States while FDR was president? What condition was the country in when he left office? What was his legacy as president (the New Deal and what he is remembered for)?  
c) Compare and contrast each presidency and the effect both had on the country. What were some famous quotes from each president? Explain the significance of these quotes. *Connection to novel?*

http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/98/mock/intro.html

http://www.english.uiuc.edu/maps/depression/depression.htm

http://history1900s.about.com/library/photos/blyindexdepression.htm

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/dustbowl/peopleevents/pandeAMEX05.html

http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=1523

http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/showelection.php?year=1932

http://www.usnews.com/articles/news/politics/2008/09/10/the-most-consequential-elections-in-history-franklin- delano-roosevelt-and-the-election-of-1932.html

http://www.dcte.udel.edu/hlp/resources/roosevelt/hooverphilo.pdf http://www.ecommcode.com/hoover/ebooks/browse.cfm http://millercenter.org/academic/americanpresident http://www.americanpresidents.org/ http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/ http://www.ferris.edu/jimcrow/what.htm http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007459 http://isurvived.org/NurnbergLaws.html

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/goebbels/peopleevents/index.html http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/riseofhitler/index.htm http://www.schoolhistory.co.uk/lessons/riseofhitler/

**Education for Blacks in the Early Twentieth Century**

8) **W.E.B. Dubois and the NAACP: Fighting Against Scientific Racism**

a) Who was W.E.B. Dubois? Give important biographical facts on his background. Why was he so important, and why is he a historical figure?  
b) What ideas did W.E.B. Dubois promote that focused on improving life for blacks in America and supporting their rights? What is scientific racism, and what were his views on it? Who were his main supporters, and who were his main opponents?

c) What is the NAACP? What was W.E.B. Dubois’ connection with the NAACP? What was the purpose or mission of the NAACP with Dubois’ help?  
d) What impact did Dubois have on the education and the general welfare of Blacks in America? Do you agree with his views? Why or why not?

*Connection to novel?*

9) **Booker T. Washington and the Tuskegee Institute: Up from Slavery**

a) Who was Booker T. Washington? Give important biographical facts on his background. Why was he so important, and why is he a historical figure?  
b) What was the Tuskegee Institute? Who founded it, and what was its purpose? What role did Booker T. Washington have at Tuskegee, and what did he accomplish while he was there?

c) What ideas did Booker T. Washington promote that focused on improving life for Blacks in America and supporting their rights? Who were his main supporters, and who were his main opponents?  
d) How did Washington’s views differ from those of W.E.B. Dubois? What impact did he have on things such as education and the general welfare of blacks in America? Do you agree with his views? Why or why not?

*Connection to novel?*

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