Fourth Grade State Report Instructions

Due: Monday, February 4, 2019

This is a research report. It will require some time and effort. I have listed step by step instructions. If you follow them, you will produce an excellent report. You are to research a state of your choice and use the information to write the report. Students will be given time in Library and Computer class to research their state.

You may use some of the following resources: Encyclopedia, library books, the internet, almanacs, brochures, atlases and magazines

For the first part of your assignment, you will write **notes on cards.** The information should be written in complete sentences. Write only important facts to use later in your report. The following guide will help you organize your report. We will gather information during library/technology class.

1) Use at least **three** sources to gather your facts. Keep a bibliography of all your sources: title, author, publisher, copyright date, issue or volume. (remember encyclopedias do not have an author)
2) Look at pictures to learn about the people of your state.
3) Write your facts on index cards as you do your research.
4) When you are finished your research, you will be ready to use your index cards to write your report.

**5) Do not throw away your index cards. They will be submitted with your report.**

Writing your report
1) Use the facts from the introductory page to develop your opening paragraph.
2) Plan the rest of your report-writing one or two paragraphs for each topic below:
   Geography, climate, animal life, industry, customs and food, places to visit/things to do.
3) Your last paragraph should be a conclusion and interesting summary.
4) The map of your state should follow the written report.
5) List your sources on a page titled Bibliography. This page will follow your map. This does not have to be a formal bibliography.

We will be writing the rough draft here in school during library/technology and Language Arts class. The final draft will be edited and typed at home.

Here are some questions you may want to answer in your report. Write each question and answer on a note card. Be sure to tell where you found the answers.

**Introductory Information - Opening Paragraph**
How did your state get its name? What is the size of your state? Name one thing that makes your state special. What is your state capital? What is the largest city in your state? What are your state’s symbols? Describe your state flag.

**Geography**
In what region is your state? Is your state on a coast or inland? Name important lakes and rivers in your state. Is your state flat or mountainous? Describe something special about your state’s geography.

**Plants and Animals**
Is agriculture important in your state? What kind of plants grow? What kinds of trees are in your state? What kinds of birds can be found in your state? What kind of small animals live in your state?

**Industry**
What are the leading industries in your state?
How does the geography of your state affect industry?
How does the climate affect industry?

**Places to visit/ things to do**
List historical landmarks, museums, parks, buildings, or other interesting places to visit.

**Which place would you most like to visit?**
List a few of your states professional athletic teams.
List some recreational activities in your state. How does climate affect these activities?

**Customs/ Foods**
Are there any customs of your state that are unique?
How would you prepare for a visit to your state?
What foods are unique?
What foods do you enjoy eating that is popular in your state?

Grading System
1-2 unsatisfactory,  3-4 poor , 5-6 good , 7-8 very good, 9-10 excellent
1) Used sufficient sources 2) Selected important information 3) Spelling/punctuation/grammar 4) Worked neatly 5) Work presented in a sensible order 6) Writing was interesting to read 7) Shows evidence of being organized 8) developed good paragraphs 9) Creative title and cover design 10) submitted work on time

Total score
Letter Grade

**Please be sure to hand in your note cards with your report.**
You will have an oral presentation of your report on February 12th. (No reading from the report word for word to the class) A rubric for the presentation is included. Make sure you use only words you can read and understand. Keep your presentation 3-5 minutes long. We will all have questions about your fascinating report, so be able to discuss it.