Social Studies WebQuest: An Action Research Project

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April 21, 2016
About Me

- Bachelor of Elementary Education
- Master of Education in Learning Design and Technology
- Second grade teacher
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Poll

- Did you learn Social Studies directly out of a textbook?
Poll

- Are you familiar with WebQuests?
WebQuests are inquiry-oriented and promote higher-order thinking skills.
Need

- 21st Century learners
- Technology is ever-present
- Difficulty creating time to sufficiently accommodate all subject areas
Project Design and Development
United States Government
Legislative Branch - Congress

The Legislative Branch is also called the Congress. There are two parts that make up Congress: the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The Legislative Branch is the part of the government that writes up and votes on laws, also called legislation. Other powers of the Congress include declaring war, confirming Presidential appointments for groups like the Supreme Court and the Cabinet, and investigating power.

House of Representatives

There are 435 total Representatives in the House. Each state has a different number of representatives depending on their total population. States with more people get more representatives.

Representatives are elected every two years. They must be 25 years old, have been a US citizen for at least 7 years, and live in the state they represent.

The Speaker of the House is the leader of the House of Representative. The House elects the member they want to be the leader. The Speaker is third in line in succession to the President.

The Senate
The Six WebQuest Building Blocks

- Introduction
- Task
- Process
- Resources
- Evaluation
- Conclusion
Introduction

We live in the United States of America. As citizens, we have the responsibility to follow laws and the right to vote.

The Federal Government is in charge of protecting all of its citizens.

Essential Questions:
Can you name the Three Branches of the Federal Government?
Do you know what each branch of the government is in charge of?

You will learn the answers to these questions and many more as you go through this WebQuest.
Congratulations!

You and your team have been chosen to create and film a news cast informing the citizens about the Federal government.

In teams of three, you will need to learn all about the important pieces that make up the Federal government.

You have three important goals.

First, you will discover the Three Branches of the Federal Government.
Then, you will learn what each branch of the government is in charge of.
Last, you will present what you have learned in a news cast.

Each team member will have an important role. Go to the Process page to learn about the roles.
Process

Government WebQuest

Watch this video with your group!

The Three Branches of Government

CONSTITUTION

The U.S. Capitol
The Supreme Court
The White House
Process continued

Now, your team is ready for your first assignment!
Each news team will have 3 members.
You have been chosen to report on the Executive Branch.
Visit the links below to learn about the Executive Branch.

http://www.congressforkids.net/executivebranch_index.htm
http://www.ducksters.com/history/us_executive_branch.php

President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden

This is the White House in Washington, D.C. This is where the President lives and works.
You have been chosen to report on the Legislative Branch.

Visit the links below to learn about the Legislative Branch.

- [http://www.congressforkids.net/LegislativeBranch_index.htm](http://www.congressforkids.net/LegislativeBranch_index.htm)

This is the Seal of the United States Congress.

The Legislative Branch is also called Congress. Congress is made of two houses.

This is the U.S. Capitol where the Congress meets to make laws, discuss what the citizens want and need, and make sure the Executive Branch does not become too powerful.

The Capitol was opened in 1800.
You have been chosen to report on the Judicial Branch.

Visit the links below to learn about the Judicial Branch.

http://www.congressforkids.net/judicialbranch/index.htm
http://www.ducksters.com/history/us_judicial_branch.php

This is the seal of the United States Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court has more power than any other court in our country. This means that the decisions made by the Supreme Court are final.

A judge in the Supreme Court is called a "Justice." To become a Supreme Court Justice, the President must select you and the Senate must approve.

These are the nine Supreme Court Justices.
Resources

Job Descriptions -
- Reporter 1
- Reporter 2
- Reporter 3

Sample Newscasts -
- Kids Newscast!
- Kid News - Reporting News Kids Care About
## Evaluation

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Three Branches of Federal Government</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of the Branches were discussed with many details in the newscast.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of the Branches were discussed in the newscast.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two of the Branches were discussed in the newscast.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One or none of the Branches were discussed in the newscast.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accuracy</strong></td>
<td>All of the information was correct.</td>
<td>Most of the information was correct.</td>
<td>Some of the information was correct.</td>
<td>Very few or none of the information was correct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creativity</strong></td>
<td>The newscast and props were very creative.</td>
<td>Most of the newscast and props were creative.</td>
<td>Some of the newscast and props were creative.</td>
<td>Very few or none of the newscast and props were very creative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teamwork</strong></td>
<td>Your team always worked well together.</td>
<td>Your team worked well together most of the time.</td>
<td>Your team worked well together sometimes.</td>
<td>Your team did not work very well together.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Time</strong></td>
<td>The newscast is between 3 and 5 minutes.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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**Total**

- ME = 19 - 20
- MP = 16 - 18
- DP = 14 - 15
- WB = 13 or below
Conclusion

Congratulations, Team!
You have discovered the answers to the essential questions.
Now you can you name the Three Branches of the Federal Government.
Now you know what each branch of the government is in charge of.
It is important to know how our government works. We have learned a large amount of valuable information from your newscasts.
Thank you for your hard work!
Modifications

Federal Government WebQuest

White House in Washington, D.C.

By Ms. Morihara
2015 – 2016

The Legislative Branch is also called Congress. Congress is made of two houses.

Senate
The Senate is made of 2 people from each state.

How many people is that?

House of Representatives
The House of Representatives has 435 members.

The big states, like California, get to send 53 people to represent them. The smaller states, like Hawaii, send only 2 people.
Lessons Learned

- Lack of digital Social Studies resources for lower levels
- Outdated WebQuests
- Simple vs. Engaging Design
- Debriefing
In the Future

- Plan time to debrief
- Grants
Thank you

- Professors
- LTEC ‘ohana & CFs
- Family
Questions?