

Social Studies

WEBSITE CREATION PROJECT

“Build a Digital History Exhibit”

Overview (Teacher Use)

Students will create a **multi-page website** using Weebly or Google Sites to present a **comprehensive historical topic**.

The website functions as a **digital museum exhibit**, where students act as historians—researching, organizing, analyzing, and presenting information for a public audience.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Research and explain a historical topic using accurate information
 - Analyze causes, effects, and significance
 - Use evidence to support claims
 - Organize information for clarity and audience
 - Develop formal, academic writing
 - Demonstrate digital literacy
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Suggested Timeline (10 Days)

Day 1–2: Topic selection + planning

Day 3–4: Research + note-taking

Day 5–6: Draft writing

Day 7–8: Build website

Day 9: Peer review + revision

Day 10: Publish + presentation

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Students must create a website with **at least 5 pages**.

1. Homepage (Topic Overview)

Purpose: Introduce the topic and establish importance

Must include:

- Title of topic
 - Time period and location
 - Brief overview paragraph
 - Historical claim or thesis
 - Explanation of why the topic matters
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2. Background & Context Page

Purpose: Provide foundational understanding

Must include:

- What happened before this topic/event
 - Key conditions (political, economic, social, cultural)
 - Important background details
 - Explanation of how context shaped the event
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3. Key Events or Developments Page

Purpose: Explain what happened

Must include:

- Chronological explanation of major events
- Key turning points
- Important figures involved
- Clear explanation (not just listing events)

4. Causes & Effects Page

Purpose: Analyze historical relationships

Must include:

- At least 2–3 causes
- At least 2–3 effects
- Short-term vs. long-term effects
- Explanation of how causes led to outcomes

5. Historical Significance Page

Purpose: Explain why the topic matters

Must include:

- Why this topic is important in history
- How it changed societies, governments, or ideas
- Connections to other historical events
- Optional modern-day connections

6. Sources & Evidence Page

Purpose: Demonstrate research and credibility

Must include:

- List of sources (books, articles, primary sources)
- At least one primary source (if possible)
- Short explanation of how sources were used

OPTIONAL EXTENSION PAGES

- Biography of a key historical figure
- Comparison to another event

- Debate page (multiple perspectives)
 - “What if?” alternate history analysis
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STUDENT DIRECTIONS (STEP-BY-STEP)

Step 1: Choose a Topic

Examples:

- A historical event (e.g., revolution, war, movement)
 - A time period (e.g., Renaissance, Industrial Revolution)
 - A theme (e.g., migration, civil rights, imperialism)
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Step 2: Research and Take Notes

Focus on:

- Key facts
 - Causes and effects
 - Important people
 - Evidence from reliable sources
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Step 3: Plan Your Website

Create an outline:

- List pages
 - Assign content to each page
 - Draft your main claim
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Step 4: Draft Your Writing

- Write in complete paragraphs
- Use clear topic sentences
- Include specific evidence

- Avoid copying—use your own words
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Step 5: Build Your Website

Using Weebly or Google Sites:

- Create pages
 - Add headings and sections
 - Paste and format writing
 - Ensure clear navigation
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Step 6: Revise and Edit

Checklist:

- Is your claim clear?
 - Are ideas explained (not just listed)?
 - Is evidence included?
 - Are grammar and spelling correct?
 - Is organization logical?
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Step 7: Publish and Share

- Publish your site
 - Submit link
 - Prepare to present
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PEER REVIEW ACTIVITY

Students review two websites.

Feedback Prompts:

- What is the clearest explanation on this site?
- Where is more detail needed?
- Are causes and effects clearly explained?

- Is the topic's significance convincing?
 - One suggestion for improvement
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FINAL PRESENTATION

Students present:

- Their topic and thesis
 - One key event or idea
 - One important cause or effect
 - Why the topic matters
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ASSESSMENT RUBRIC (NON-TABLE FORMAT)

Historical Understanding

Accurately explains events, context, and key ideas with depth and clarity.

Analysis (Causes, Effects, Significance)

Demonstrates strong reasoning about why events happened and why they matter.

Use of Evidence

Includes relevant facts, examples, and sources to support ideas.

Organization & Structure

Website is logically organized with clear pages and easy navigation.

Writing Quality

Clear, formal writing with strong paragraphs and minimal errors.

Digital Presentation

Complete, functional website with consistent formatting and readability.

DIFFERENTIATION

Support:

- Provide guided notes template
- Limit to 3–4 pages
- Offer sentence stems (e.g., “One major cause was...”)

Extension:

- Require multiple perspectives
 - Add primary source analysis
 - Include citations in MLA or APA format
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TEACHER NOTES

- Works for **any history unit** (World History, U.S. History, AP, middle school)
- Can be used as a **final assessment or project-based learning unit**
- Encourages deeper thinking than traditional reports
- Easily adaptable into a **portfolio system across the year**