**Clarenceville High School Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Big History – Mr. Salciccioli and Mr. Lurie Report Due Date:**

**Guidelines for Little Big History Project Presentation Due Date:**

The goal of the Little Big History is to use the concepts we have learned in Big History to research the origins of a common everyday object, extending the history of that object across both space and time.

Your paper and presentation will explain not just the immediate history of some item, but also the collective learning, Goldilocks conditions, and thresholds that had to occur for that item to exist. Your paper should show how that item is tied in to societies and cultures across the world. It should also explain scientific aspects of the item, either in terms of atomic composition, physical laws, or biology, all of which can be extended back to “deep time”.

You can choose any topic you wish, but a physical abject will be easier to study than an idea or action such as love or dance. Whatever topic you choose, it will be your responsibility to find appropriate sources and meet the project requirements.

Your research should include multiple sources, in multiple formats, as we have done in the Investigations.

You must use at least:

* + 2 books
  + 2 scholarly or peer-reviewed articles (scientific magazines or journals)
  + 2 newspaper or magazine articles (online editions are acceptable)
  + 2 credible websites

This article about the Lakeside School Big History course shows that your topic can be any common object, and that even a seemingly simple snack has a complicated extensive history:

One of the pedagogical innovations developed by the teachers was the idea of “Little Big Histories,” in which students are asked to research and write about some aspect of the contemporary world, tracing an object back into deep time. Deborah Smith Johnston from the Lakeside School in Seattle told the story of a student who wrote a brilliant “Little Big History” on Cheez-It™ snack foods. The student explained that:

*To the uninformed the Cheez-It™ itself may seem insignificant, but the history and modern climate that it reflects is quite the opposite. … The Cheez-It, an unassuming and humble cracker, is the result of millions of years of progress and evolution. From the first blade of grass of the earliest ancestor of wheat 60 million years ago, to the new flavors that the company launched in 2011 (Kellogg NA Co.); Cheez-Its are a representative of the constant increases in complexities that our universe and planet are subject to.*

(Grassie, William. "Big History Gets Bigger." *Metanexus*. N.p., 6 Aug. 2012. Web. 5 Dec. 2012. <http://www.metanexus.net/essay/big-history-gets-bigger>.)

**Requirements for Report:**

7-9 page paper (not including cover page), double spaced, 1-inch margins

Citations page in MLA format

Your paper should have an introduction thesis paragraph that presents your argument and maps where your successive paragraphs are taking you.

Body paragraphs should have clear topic sentences which address your thesis prompt by:

* Including Big History concepts: Goldilocks conditions, increasing complexity, collective learning
* Documenting change over time by crossing at least three Big History thresholds (including at least one before Threshold 5)
* Relating your topic to the present
* Using a multidisciplinary approach, drawing from history and two other fields (anthropology, astronomy, economics, etc.)
* Spanning more than one continent
* Including evidence that is cited using MLA in-text citations

Your conclusion should sum up the ideas, without repeating the sentences you used earlier.

**Requirements for Presentation:**

Your presentation should be in a common software format such as PowerPoint or Prezi. It should contain relevant images and concise sentences which present your topic in a logical sequence. When read aloud, the presentation should last 7-10 minutes.

The images must be informative, and not merely decorative. Images should be contained within slides instead of being set as the background. The sentences should be in a clear font, in one color, and the words should not flow over the images. Labels and arrows can be used to refer to specific points on the image.

Due Date Checklist:

* Topic Selection Fri 3/14/14
* List of Preliminary Sources (at least 1 from each category) Wed 3/26/14
* Notes from each Preliminary Source Thurs 4/3/14
* Outline: Main Thesis and Topics for Body Paragraphs Tues 4/15/14
* Completed List of Citations (at least 2 from each category) Thurs 4/17/14
* Outline: Thesis Paragraph and Body Introduction Sentences Tues 4/22/14
* Presentation Draft, with Images and Sentences Fri 5/2/14
* Rough Draft of Report, Ready for Group Editing Wed 5/7/14
* Little Big History Report Mon 5/12/14
* Little Big History Presentation – Final Mon-Fri 5/19 – 5/23/14

Big History Time and Space Concept Chart – (Use to see if you have covered a broad range.)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | Time (years) | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.1 | 1 | 10 | 100 | 1000 | 10000 | 1 million | 1 billion | 5 billion | 10 billion |
| Space | atomic |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| micro-scopic |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| local |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| state |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| country |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| conti-nent |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| planet |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| solar system |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| galaxy |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| universe |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

What subjects have you connected to your topic?

Anthropology, economics, history, chemistry, physics, biology, economics, astrophysics, mechanics, philosophy, sociology, geology, psychology, archaeology, …