

## **Themes Final Project**

This school year in our social studies class, we examined history from the foundations of human existence to the rise and fall of some of its great civilizations.

To end our year, instead of looking at each event on its own we will take what we have learned and tie it together into one big idea or historical theme.

Everyone will write one polished and edited piece based around one question the student asks that explains their theme and how it helps us understand its place in history. Everyone will write a rough draft and peer review each other's work to develop a final draft.

These work pages will help everyone to organize their thoughts into a first draft and will guide you through editing and creating a final draft.

### **What makes a good theme?**

Based on our social studies class and our lessons on Early Hominids, Ancient River Valley Civilizations, Mesoamerica, The Columbian Exchange, and Early Colonies, think about what these different eras have in common. There are problems that humans have needed to solve.

### **What makes a good question?**

A good question requires more than a one or two word answer. The answer to a good question will help the reader understand the importance of the theme.



## Questions:

Ask three Level 1 questions about your theme. These are Who, What, When, Where questions

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Talk to your classmate or consult a resource to answer at least one of these questions:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ask two Level 2 or Level 3 questions about your theme. These are Why or How questions

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Discuss with a classmate to try to answer at least one of your Level 2 / Level 3 questions.

I talked with:

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Period:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Examples**

**Think of examples where your theme appears in history that we have studied in our class:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Ask at least three (3) classmates if they can add any more examples:**

1. Classmate: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Classmate \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Classmate \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Period:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrowing Your Focus**

A stronger piece of writing will have a clear point. To achieve this goal in this assignment, we must focus on the most important aspects of our theme.

**Select your best question about your theme:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**How does this question explain why your theme is important to history?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Select your best example that shows your theme:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**How does this example best demonstrate your theme?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



