

Southern Inquiry Project Information

What is Inquiry?

"Inquiry" is defined as "a seeking for truth, information, or knowledge -- seeking information by questioning."¹

Name: _____

Listed below are topic ideas for the southern inquiry project. **Before selecting a topic** please read the following information carefully and discuss with your child. Sign where indicated on the back page when a topic choice has been made.

1. When choosing a topic, narrow it as much as possible. Think about how you can limit note-taking to three questions you will want answered about these focus areas. These questions should be based more in *why* and *how* and less in what and when. Two examples are:
 - Topic choice is the Underground Railroad. A question a student may have is how were locations found for safe houses on the Underground Railroad?
 - Topic Selection is the Dust Bowl. A question a student may ask how farming methods of the time period increased the negative effects of the Dust Bowl.
2. Research success generally increases when students choose a topic of **high-interest** to them, and creates questions that require more than just finding a **single fact** to answer.
3. The research project concludes with students presenting the highlights of their research findings in a speech given to classmates. This speech/presentation will be 3-5 minutes long and may include visuals such as costumes, maps/harts, posters, and other technology.
4. The priority of this process is students writing that show **understanding**. Papers will be in the five paragraph format and do not need to be longer. Length is not a priority for success. *Quality is more important than quantity.*

¹ <http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/inquiry/index.html>

Southern Inquiry Research

Research Paper Format

Research Process:

- Select a topic from the list provided
- Identify three inquiry questions and get them approved by teacher

Research:

- Note-taking is divided into four categories: background information and three inquiry questions

The Paper

Paragraph 1: Background Information

- Includes basic facts about the topic- Who, what, when, where, etc.

Paragraph 2: Inquiry Question #1 (Why / How)

- Identifies question and provides information

Paragraph 3: Inquiry Question #2 (Why / How)

- Identifies question and provides information

Paragraph 4: Inquiry Question #3 (Why / How)

- Identifies question and provides information

Paragraph 5: Conclusion / Summary

- Summarizes the inquiry process
- What was learned?

Topics

The Louisiana Purchase	The Everglades
Battle of Gettysburg	Hurricanes
Trail of Tears	Helen Keller
Underground Railroad	Dolphins / Sharks / Manatees
The Dust Bowl	Alligators / Armadillos
Battle of the Alamo	Louis Armstrong / Elvis Presley
Harriet Tubman	The Cotton Industry
George Washington Carver	Emancipation Proclamation
Jefferson Davis / Robert E. Lee	Sherman's March
Daniel Boone / Davy Crockett	Reconstruction
Rosa Parks	Role of women in Civil War
Martin Luther King Jr.	Reasons for southern secession
Jackie Robinson	Disney World / Role of tourism
Eli Whitney	Civil Rights

Presentation:

- 3-5 minute speech that follows the structure of the research paper- (see attached guidelines)

Southern Research Paper Topic Browsing

Name: _____

Topic #1: _____

What is interesting to you about this topic? _____

What might make this topic challenging? _____

YES

MAYBE

NO



Topic #2: _____

What is interesting to you about this topic? _____

What might make this topic challenging? _____

YES

MAYBE

NO



Topic #3: _____

What is interesting to you about this topic? _____

What might make this topic challenging? _____

YES

MAYBE

NO

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**Topic #4:** \_\_\_\_\_

What is interesting to you about this topic? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What might make this topic challenging? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

YES

MAYBE

NO

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Final Choice: _____

Why?: _____

Please return this page promptly to your child's homeroom teacher.

Topic choice: _____

Parent signature: _____

Student signature: _____

Why did you choose this topic?
