

BIOGRAPHY REPORT



Time: approximately 90-120 minutes (can be divided into separate blocks)

Instructional Goals:

- The student will use the PebbleGo Biographies online database to research an important historical figure.
- The student will navigate an online database to locate needed information.
- The student will be introduced to the term *biography*.
- The student will be introduced to the term *bibliography* and the importance of giving credit to a source during research.
- The student will take research notes on a historical figure and use those notes to write a biography report.

Materials/Resources:

- PebbleGo Biographies online database
- Biography Research Notes booklet (copy on cardstock for each student)
- Additional biography research sources, such as the *Pebble First Biographies* book series

Directions:

Focus

1. Tell the class they will be assigned to write a biography report about a famous historical figure.
2. Walk through the entire project with students using a problem-solving process, which includes steps 3-6.
3. Discuss with students the term *biography*. Define the term, and as a class, brainstorm different people in history.
4. Lead students through brainstorming the types of sources they could use to research one of the people listed.
5. Explain to students that PebbleGo Biographies is an online resource that can be used for biography research. Books about a person (biographies) are also good research sources for this project.
6. Tell students they will be using these types of sources to help them write a biography report.

Teach/Model

7. Walk students through the process of accessing the PebbleGo Biographies online database.
8. Show students how subject directory searching works by navigating through the subject directory pictures in PebbleGo Biographies. Show students keyword searching by using the Search box at the top of the screen. Use names from the class brainstorming list of historical figures as examples.
9. Demonstrate the read-aloud function by clicking on the appropriate button and listening to the text being read aloud.



10. Show students the tabs at the top of the screen that allow them to scroll through the biographical information. Highlight the information in the timeline and glossary of each article. Demonstrate how students can use the buttons to watch videos.
11. Show the students how they can look through the different pictures of a person. Explain that they will need to use the pictures to help them with their Biography Report activity. Show students how to choose a picture of a person and print it out.
12. Demonstrate using a biography book as a research source, pointing out the table of contents, timeline, glossary, and index. (Many *Pebble First Biographies* contain these features.)
13. Explain to students that they will be taking notes from the information in PebbleGo Biographies and in the biography book.

Guided Practice

14. Show students the Biography Research Notes booklet.
15. Explain to students what a *bibliography* is and why it is important to give credit to their research sources. They will need to cite their sources in the Biography Research Notes booklet. Show them the "Cite This Source" button in PebbleGo Biographies. Show them how to cite a book for the bibliography.
16. Explain that students will each research a chosen person in PebbleGo Biographies and in a biography book.
17. Show students how they will take their notes in the Biography Research Notes booklet. Explain that research notes do not need to be complete sentences.

Independent Practice

18. Have students work independently or with a partner to complete the Biography Research Notes booklet using PebbleGo Biographies and a biography book.
19. Monitor student progress as they work to complete the Biography Research Notes booklet.
20. When their notes are complete, work with students to write a biography report (1-2 paragraphs) about the person they researched.

Closure

21. Have students read their biography report to an audience of peers or parents.

Extend/Enrich

22. Students may create a Living Museum. Have each student dress up as the person they researched. Audience members may walk through the museum and listen to the rehearsed biography reports.
23. Students may create a slideshow presentation about the person they researched. They can present their slideshow to an audience of peers or parents.

Bibliography

What sources did you use for your research notes?

Write the citations below.

Biography Research Notes About

Research by

Print out a picture of this person. Cut out the picture and glue it here. Or draw and color your own picture of the person.

List 2 words from this biography that are new to you. Use the glossary or a dictionary to write down what these words mean.

1

What it means:

2.

What it means:

What did this person contribute to history?

What is this person known as?
Circle your answer.

Author

Artist

Athlete

Explorer

Inventor

President

First Lady

Scientist

Other _____
(Write your answer above)

What is another interesting fact
about this person?

When was this person born?

Write a fact about the later part of this person's life.

Write a fact about the early part of this person's life.

When did this person die?

This person went to school.

  **Yes** **No**

