

Society and Culture - Grade 6 Research Project

Choose two of the following topics:

- Japan
- Peru
- Wales

Then What do I Have to Do, Mr. Nixon?

For each country you choose you will imagine that you are visiting it for ten days. In those ten days you will learn and experience different aspects of the country. Each day you will write a journal entry recording information, your feelings and findings.

- Day 1: Location, Size, Population, Government, Weather and Money.
- Tell about your country's location (continent, latitude and longitude, surrounding oceans/rivers/seas/countries, major cities), and include a map you've made.
 - Compare the population and size of your country (in km²) to Canada's.
 - Tell what major ethnic and religious groups make up your country's population. (i.e., in Canada we have 3 major ethnic groups: English, French and First Nations/Inuit. But we have several others too: East Indian [Sikh, Hindi], Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Dutch etc.)
 - Briefly describe how the government is organized (How often are elections held? How many parties can you choose from? What is the party in power at present? What is the leader's name?).
 - What is the weather like there today? (Use the internet; Temperature? Precipitation? Does the country have seasons?)
 - Tell about the currency (type of money). How much of their money can you buy with one Canadian Dollar?
 - Tell how you are feeling to be in the first country of your choice, and what interesting fact you have discovered already that you didn't know before!

One way to start your journal entry might be:

I can hardly believe I'm going to be in Japan in a few hours. As you know Japan is a series of islands located

- Day 2: Houses, Customs and Language
- You were met at the airport by your host family. What sort of greeting did they use to welcome you? (Include here the typical greeting customs of your country)
 - You immediately notice some differences between their home and your home back in Canada. It is a typical dwelling for someone in this country. Describe their home.
 - Write out a few common phrases in your host country's language for your classmates back home to learn and tell what they mean.
 - Tell about any other major customs that are important in your country. What manners or formalities do they observe?

One way to start your journal entry might be:

My host family picked me up at the airport and took me to their home where I will be staying. Their home is not at all like the ones in Canada. It is

➤ Day 3: School, Stories and Activities

- Today your host family took you to school with them. Describe how schools are different from yours (Timetable? Subjects taught? Uniforms? Teachers? Buildings?)
- Recite a story, folk tale or fable from your host country. Illustrate it (In colour).
- What activities were the students learning about? What games do they play?

One way to start your journal entry might be:

Going to school in Wales isn't too much different than in Canada. The main differences I've noticed are . . .

➤ Day 4: Festivals and Celebrations

- Choose two festivals celebrated in your country. For each festival, find out the history behind the festival and some of the customs associated with the festival. Tell why it is celebrated, when it is celebrated, how it is celebrated, and what artifacts are used in the festival to help celebrate it. Do this for both festivals/customs/celebrations that you have chosen.
- Include drawings or sketches of festival activities.

One way to start your journal entry might be:

Today I had a chance to take part in one of the many festivals that are celebrated in Japan. There are many different festivals

➤ Day 5: Sports and Recreation

- Find out about traditional (not foreign or popular sports) sports in your country. Choose one traditional sport and describe its history, rules, equipment needed and culture. Imagine you were a spectator and tell what you saw.
- Find out about popular recreational past-times in your country. Choose one hobby/past-time/amusement and describe its history, rules (if any) and culture. Imagine you were a spectator and tell what you saw.

One way to start your journal entry might be:

I now understand why Sumo is so popular in Japan. It was very interesting to watch the traditions and customs that surround this sport.

➤ Day 6: Historic Landmarks

- Your country has many historic landmarks including castles, religious shrines and

gardens. Today you traveled to a historic landmark and while you were there the director asked you for help in designing a new brochure for English speaking tourists. Design your brochure and include a copy in your report. Include a map of where it's located and how to get there; drawings/diagrams showing various parts; historical facts; explanation of its historical importance - design it to attract tourists such as yourself! Include information about other landmarks and historical places that may be related.

One way to begin your journal entry might be:

Today I traveled with my host family to visit the historic site of

➤ Day 7: Food

- It's taken a bit of getting used to but you're starting to actually enjoy some of the traditional foods of your country. You've learned a few customs surrounding food and eating. Describe the traditional foods eaten, both on special occasions and every day. What ingredients are commonly used in many dishes? What are the flavours like. Does it remind you of food you have eaten elsewhere? What are some of the customs surrounding some of these foods?
- In your journal entry design a menu for a Japanese restaurant which includes some of the most popular foods.

One way to start your journal entry might be:

I thought I might starve to death before I finally decided to eat a guinea pig, but it's one of the most popular dishes here. They prepare it in many different ways, and the noses are a particular delicacy...

➤ Day 8: Art and Music

- Throughout your trip you have seen how the host nation's people are able to express themselves through their art and music. You have heard some traditional music and have observed their artistic talents evident in their gardening, their drama, paintings, festivals, plays and performances. In your journal you will describe what you have seen and heard and how the people reveal their beliefs through the arts.
- Focus on one artist/musician from your host country. Write a very brief biography in your journal, including some of the major events in his/her life. Describe the person's art and include a picture.

One way to start your journal entry might be:

In my short time here I have learned a lot about different Welsh arts. My host family sing in choirs and have several musical instruments in their home . . .

➤ Day 9: The Trip's Conclusion

- Your time abroad is coming to an end. In a few days time you will be back home

eager to share what you have learned with your classmates. There is still much about your host country you don't know. Today you will have an opportunity to find out just one more thing about your country. Choose from the items below and include a journal item about it.

- ❖ History
- ❖ Earthquakes
- ❖ Clothing and Fashions
- ❖ Religions
- ❖ Family Crests
- ❖ Animals and Plants
- ❖ Major Industries

One way to start your journal entry might be:

It hardly seems possible that my trip is coming to an end and I will be home soon. I've learned so much, but I have lots to share.

➤ Day 10: You're Home - Oh Canada!

- Come on, be honest, you're glad to be back. Sure your holiday was great, but there were many things about Canada, and home, that you missed. In your journal write down all the things that you missed about Canada, explaining why you missed them. Then, write about which features of your host country you would like to incorporate into Canada to make it just that little bit better!!

One way to start your journal entry might be:

I'm back! The smells, noises and tastes that I missed remind me that I belong here. Believe it or not, the snow is a refreshing change...

Your Report Should Be Organized in the Following Order:

- Title page
- Map
- Table of Contents
- Introduction
- Journal Entries
- Illustrations (other maps, diagrams and pictures)
- Conclusion
- Model (at least one)
- Bibliography (You must use at least):
 - one reference book (i.e. your textbook - if you have one)
 - one computer resource
 - one resource book

Draft - Double Spaced

- At least 1 page of information per journal entry (handwritten or using only 14 pt. Font -

Golden Rules)

- Edit - use Check list.
- Proof Read - COPS.

Final Draft:

- Hand written, double spaced
- Typed - double spaced (Mr. Nixon's Golden Rules)

Project Time Line:

- This time line will help you manage your time wisely throughout the project. If you work ahead of this time line, that's great!! Don't forget your research, project writing, and illustrations must be done at home as well as at school. Remember, work smarter, not harder!!

To Do	Completed by
Gather Facts:	TBA
Organize Facts:	TBA
1st Draft checked by parents/study buddy:	TBA
Draft Completed and handed in to teacher:	TBA
Project Due:	TBA

Your Research report will be marked out of 100 using the following criteria:

Content: (30 marks)

- writing reflects topics.
- topic is well organized.
- information contains keys ideas, supporting details, and key words.
- has an introduction and a conclusion.
- uses sources for information as indicated in bibliography.

Organization: (20 marks)

- facts are organized in a logical manner.
- research is organized with sub titles.
- sentence/paragraph structure is correct.
- has included all parts of project outline above.

Presentation: (25 marks)

- report is double spaced and either typed or neatly handwritten.
- illustrations support topic.
- model is neatly and creatively done with appropriate labels.

- title page has a focal point, uses space well and reflects the topic of the research project.

Mechanics: (25 marks)

- spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar is correct.

Project Planning & Guidelines

Planning:

- Select your countries.
- Find a the facts and details about your countries that you need.

Recording Information:

- Read through all of your sources and take notes on important facts and details.
- To help organize your reading and note taking, it might be helpful to write basic questions about your subject of your report which you would like to answer in your report. Put each of these questions at the top of a separate card or sheet of paper. Any time you find a fact that helps answer one of the your questions, write this information on the card or paper with that question.
- Your questions should answer Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How for each topic.

Organize Your Information:

- Arrange the note cards in the best possible order.

Outlining Your Information:

- On a separate piece of paper write out each heading will their facts.

Main Heading:

detail
 detail
 "
 "

2nd Heading:

detail
 detail
 "
 "

Writing the final Draft:

- Before you write the main part of your report, you will need to write an introductory paragraph. This paragraph should say something interesting and catchy about the topics so that readers will want to read your report.
- After you have written the main part or body of your report you must add a concluding

summary paragraph.

- Try to end your report with a good last sentence which captures the essence of your report. e.g. "An erupting volcano is an awesome site; they are a reminder that nature can be both fascinating yet lethal."