

Mandala School Newsletter

Volume XII 7 février 2020
Issue XVI

Our newest units of study are officially underway: Ancient Civilizations for the older group & Ancient Egypt for the younger students.

Right: students make recycled paper into new paper during the first few steps in the process: shredding and soaking.

The younger students learned that papyrus (below) was a type of reed used in Ancient Egypt to make paper.



“How the Egyptians made paper” by Sachin & Sia
So, they get papyrus and they peel off the green part and then they shave off the green part (outer stem). They take the pith out of the center and they place them alternating horizontally and vertically, they do that all the way up the paper. Then they put linen on top of that. After they put the linen on, they put on a heavy, heavy rock. the heavy rock will push out the sap and that fuses the pieces of pith together, and then they have paper!

The youngest and middle groups have begun studying Ancient Egypt through a point system. They each made a book where they can accumulate facts about 8 different categories, which will earn them points. The categories are geography, time period, the Pyramids, the Nile River, pharaohs, technology, language, and mummies. Plus they will add to a glossary in their books as they come across unknown words.

Over the past few weeks, the oldest group worked to better understand WWII through essay writing. Devin, Martin, Kate, and Jackson chose an event or topic to research, and from there developed their thesis. Formal writing projects, involving time management, organization, and critical thinking, can be quite challenging! The student-created rubric helped to guide their final product by breaking down the essay into segments with various deadlines. Kate and Martin helped decide what should be expected in each paragraph and the corresponding point values. Through self, peer, and teacher evaluations the group was able to receive and provide helpful feedback. Practicing to discern between crucial information and unnecessary details has helped guide more focused and concise writing. With the first formal essay under our belts, we are looking forward to more impressive writing to come! - Miss Leah

Ask these WWII experts about their research!

Kate: Pearl Harbor

Devin: Bombing of Japan

Martin: The Fall of France

Jackson: Chemical Warfare

Nolan: The London Blitz

Summaries of essays:

The Bombing of Japan by Devin

On April 3rd, 1942 two hundred seventy nine B-29 Super Forces firebombed Tokyo, destroying large parts of the city. One thousand people were killed. Then three days later, the U.S. dropped the first nuclear bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima. The bombings where only 3:32 hours apart. The nukes were called the "Little Boy" and the "Fat Man". They killed one hundred thirty thousand people all together either from radiation or the blast.

Pearl Harbor by Kate

Pearl Harbor was on December 7th 1941. Pearl Harbor made the United States enter World War II. Japan bombed the United States Naval base at Pearl Harbor. 2,403 people were killed and 1,143 were injured in the attack.

President Roosevelt moved the United States Naval base from California to Pearl Harbor. This did not sit well for Japan who was trying to take over more of the Pacific Ocean. Japan used a surprise attack so people would be unprepared. After Pearl Harbor the United States declared war on Japan but they would also fight Germany and Italy because they were Axis.

Chemical Warfare By Jackson

Chemical weapons are one of the most dangerous tools of war. In World War One alone there were close to five-hundred thousand gas casualties. After many failed attempts in the 1900s, chemical weapons were finally introduced, but sadly it took over a decade to finally ban them for our protection.

Chemical warfare is a dangerous type of war. It is so dangerous because the toxic chemicals involved can affect; eyes, skin, mind, and the whole respiratory system. Chemical weapons were first introduced by the Germans with phosgene, this is proven by a World War One battle site being filled with chemically contaminated objects still being found today. Chemical agents, such as mustard gas (blister agent) and chlorine gas, (choking agent) can without protection infect and severely harm if not treated.

