



Postcard

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Overview Packer Pig Tales is a creative writing project where students wrote stories for a younger audience that spotlighted historical facts about their hometown, Smithfield, VA.

Driving Question How can I spark elementary students' interest in learning about Smithfield? How can I write a creative story incorporating a historical aspect of Smithfield?

Student Reflections

- "The most enjoyable part of this project was reading to the third graders and seeing how surprisingly interested they were in Packer Pig and all the history of Smithfield." - C.B.
- "The most valuable thing I learned was how to apply factual information into a story and make it exciting as well as educational." - K.J.
- "The most valuable things I learned through this project is if one part of a whole refuses to work, the whole system can collapse. We couldn't allow anyone to fall behind, because then the project would either fail or we'd simply have to cut their story out of it." - J.W.

Teacher Reflection "This project taught students the importance of working together to finish a task. Students realized that having an authentic audience gave their work purpose. The support of outside sources (guest speakers, field trip, etc) helped make this project a success."

Lessons Learned "If I were to do this project again, I would allow more time to revise/critique."

Did Project Meet Goals? 5 out of 5 (Definitely would Recommend)

PBL Unpacked (on page 2)

As identified using "Unpack My PBL" within www.pblounge.org



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WANTS	NEEDS
<p>Public Project</p> <p><i>Performing:</i> Speech/Spoken Word Performance <i>Interacting:</i> Event <i>Producing:</i> Product Published Books¹ <i>Revising/Iterating:</i> Revise a Product or Service Execute Multiple Drafts Create a Storyboard Participate in a Rehearsal <i>Presenting:</i> Utilize Visuals²</p> <p>Media Produced</p> <p><i>Print Media:</i> Book Publishing³ <i>Artistic Competition:</i> Fictional Narrative <i>Physical Drawings/Fine Arts:</i> Product Drawing or Sketch⁴</p> <p>Real World Exploration</p> <p><i>Humans in the World:</i> Consumers & Industry Family, Friends & Relationships Historical Times & Periods <i>Of the Mind:</i> Imaginary Beings & Worlds Implications of Decisions</p> <p>Authentic Industries & People</p> <p><i>Career & Technical:</i> Arts & Entertainment Education</p>	<p>Questions & Themes</p> <p><i>Challenging Problem:</i> Reveal the World⁵</p> <p>Project Parameters</p> <p><i>Project Timeframe:</i> 7-8 Weeks <i># of Project Members</i> Pair Small Group Large Group Flexible Group <i>Grade Level:</i> High School <i>Authentic Connections:</i> Community Members</p> <p>Success Skills</p> <p><i>Creativity:</i> Brainstorm Design/Create Elaborate/Expand Improve/Refine⁶ <i>Communication:</i> Engage Creatively <i>Collaboration:</i> Encourage Others Incorporate Feedback Maximize Strengths of Team Members Work Fluidly to Meet Deadlines <i>Critical Thinking:</i> Persuade <i>Instilled Citizenship Values:</i> Habits of Mind & Heart Personal Responsibility Interact Respectfully In-person/Online</p> <p>Areas of Knowledge & Understanding</p> <p><i>History:</i> Local History <i>Literary Studies:</i> Creative Writing</p>

Notes:

- ¹ Copies of the published book were bought for each student who participated in the project. Books were given to guests who helped with the project as well as a copy was placed in each of our school libraries in the district. Books were given to the Isle of Wight County Museum, Board of Supervisors, School Board members and to the Chamber.
- ² Students used the app Superimpose to place Packer Pig on each photo that accompanies a story.
- ³ Published 8 x 11 paperback book through Lulu.
- ⁴ Each student had to submit an original drawing of what they thought Packer Pig would look like. A winning entry was chosen. Students had to take an original photograph to accompany their stories or had to find a picture that dealt with the content of their tale. The chosen Packer Pig drawing is superimposed onto each photograph/picture.
- ⁵ As the world starts right at home, the driving question required sparking elementary students' interest in learning about their hometown of Smithfield, VA. High School students therefore were challenged to write a creative story incorporating a historical aspect of Smithfield.
- ⁶ Worked with local author, tour guide and museum directors to revise and authenticate historical accuracy.

For **additional resources** provided with this PBL, follow links beneath the **Packer Pig Tales** thumbnail on the *Isle of Wight County Schools* page within www.pblounge.org.



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