



Past-Times

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Webquest History

Web Quest Title: How it all began!

Key competences: historical awareness; digital competence; social and civic competence; teamwork; critical thinking; creativity; communication.

Key words: Belgian history; European history; online research; teamwork; presentation

Introduction

Nowadays when people talk about Belgium, the first thoughts that come to their mind are Bruges, chocolate, waffles, fries, beer, and Brussels as the centre of the EU.

While these stereotypes are well-known around the world, few are familiar with the history of Belgium and the origins of its name. Take a look into Belgium's history and the events that shaped its cultural identity as a nation and people.

Nowadays, Brussels is not only Belgium's capital, but also the capital of the European Union, as well as the headquarters of NATO and many other major multinational organisations.



Why did Brussels become the unofficial capital of Europe? Because Belgium starts with letter B!!!

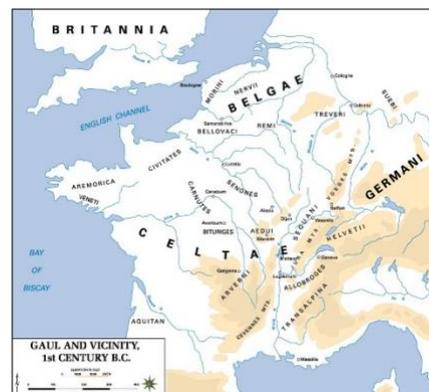
Task

You and your friends have recently moved to Belgium, and you would like to learn more about this country and its role in the European area. You are also convinced that many recent immigrants in Belgium would be helped in their integration, if they knew more about the history of their host country.

So you decide to prepare a presentation of the history of this small country, with a particular emphasis on the period from independence (1830) to the present day.

You will do a joint reading of a summary of Belgium's history, then you will divide the history of Belgium into as many periods as you have members in your team, taking into account the different complexities and importance of the different historical periods.

A special chapter must be dedicated to the establishment of the EU.



Process:

Step 1: Research design

First of all discuss in groups what emerges from the joint reading of the "brief history" of Belgium. Assign a relative weight to each historical phase, and on the basis of this determine the relative space on the presentation you are about to do.

Remember that it is very important that you can highlight the role played at European level! In this preparatory phase it is very important that you reflect together, freely exchanging impressions and opinions. Even the setting of the final product must already be clear, so that you choose the right data and useful information. Define a presentation scheme and feel free to use the link suggested.



Step 2: Research and content collection



Each of you will carry out online search aimed at giving content to the presentation. Remember that the various parts of the "story" must be linked to each other. To that end, you will compare your work from time to time with those engaged in the phases preceding and following the period you are responsible for.

You can use the resources provided for the first step, and learn more using search engines. You have to collect as much information and data as possible, but you will then have to be able to make a selection based on the consistency with the qualitative and quantitative objectives you have set at the beginning. It is clear that you will also have to make the appropriate corrections if the significance of the final product requires it.

Step 3: Verification of results

Each of you will illustrate the information collected about the period assigned to him/her. Remember to check that each of the "parts" is consistent with the result you want to obtain and that together each of your component parts forms a cohesive picture of Belgium's history. Verify that the template decided at the beginning is still correct.

At this point you have to agree on which content to include, and what still needs to be investigated. Then you give yourself a further short research phase to "refine" the content.

Step 4: Preparation of the presentation

Once you have researched all of your content, you are almost ready to prepare the presentation. You have just to decide which facts to emphasize. For example: the Roman conquest; the battle of Waterloo; the Congress of Vienna; the Germany's invasion; the Belgian rule in its African colonies; European Economic Community birth, and so on.



Belgium is one of the six founding countries of the European Union and its capital, Brussels, hosts the official seats of the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, and the European Council, as well as one of two seats of the European Parliament (the other being Strasbourg). Belgium is also a founding member of the Eurozone, NATO, OECD, and WTO.

Step 5: Sharing your presentation

To verify that your presentation achieves its goal of knowledge produces the desired effects, show it to a group of immigrants in Belgium.

Relate each one to their own presentation part. Remember not to make an "aseptic" story, but fill it with anecdotes and reflections.

At the end of the presentation, one of you will lead the debate around the events told, their consequences, their contribution to the current society. The discussion should focus mainly on European and international repercussions. It is clear that you will have to decide in advance who will do what, and especially who will animate the debate. The extent and quality of the interaction will be the measure of the quality of your work.

Resources

Below the resources you have to use to accomplish your task

Research design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://www.scribbr.com/research-process/research-design/ - https://library.sacredheart.edu/c.php?g=29803&p=185902 - https://www.intechopen.com/online-first/research-design-and-methodology
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Group Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - http://sixminutes.dlugan.com/group-discussion-plan/ - https://www.managementstudyguide.com/tips-for-successful-group-discussion.htm
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://theculturetrip.com/europe/belgium/articles/belgium-a-brief-history-of-how-it-all-began/ - https://www.belgium.be/en/about_belgium/country/history/belgium_from_1830 - https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Belgium - https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/history_en - https://www.bbc.com/timelines/zwtf34j - https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329118944_History_of_Belgium - https://www.britannica.com/event/Battle-of-Waterloo
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://www.wikihow.com/Give-a-Presentation - https://www.articulatemarketing.com/blog/how-to-make-a-successful-presentation - https://www.princeton.edu/~archss/webpdfs08/BaharMartonosi.pdf - https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/easy-powerpoint-design-tricks-ht

Learning outcomes

Knowledge	skills	Attitudes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Factual learning about the history of Belgium - Basic knowledge about the geography of Belgium - Factual knowledge about the influences that this country has had for the development of Europe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research skills to find information - Analysis skills to select findings - Ability to synthesize information from different sources to form opinions - Ability to debate choices - Teamwork skills to complete the project. - Ability to contextualize and relate information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness of the interconnection between the histories of the various countries - Appreciation of Belgian achievements - Respect for all opinions - Increased pleasure in working in groups and sharing - Be rigorous in realize your tasks

Conclusion

You should study history because it's to study change. The past teaches us about the present

because history gives us the tools to analyse and explain problems in the past: it positions us to see patterns that might otherwise be invisible in the present – thus providing a crucial perspective for understanding (and solving!) current and future problems.



Understanding immigration patterns may provide crucial background for addressing ongoing racial or cultural tensions. In many ways, history interprets the events and causes that contributed to our current world. In learning about the past, we often discover how our own lives fit into the human experience. History can be intensely personal as a result.

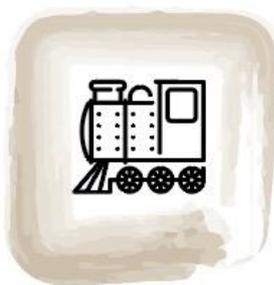
“Doing” history is like completing a puzzle or solving a mystery: Imagine asking a question about the past, assembling a set of clues through documents, artefacts, or other sources, and then piecing those clues together to tell a story that answers your question *and* tells you something unexpected about a different time and place. That’s doing history.

Everything we do, everything we use, everything else we study is the product of a complex set of causes, ideas, and practices.

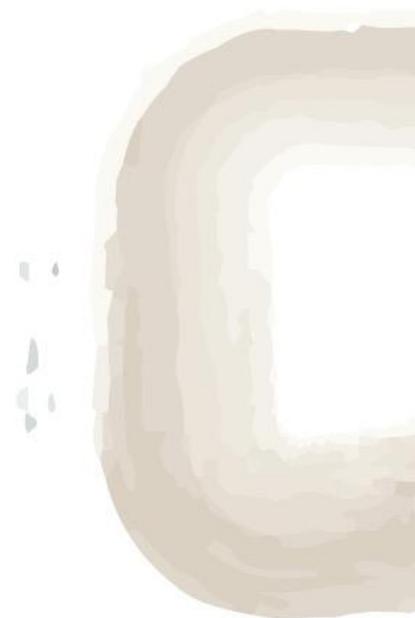
Knowledge of history helps us to understand the world in which we live and therefore makes us better citizens.

We hope that this WebQuest has stimulated your desire to find out more about the history of Belgium and other European nations!

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Stories, Tales and Customs to Raise Intercultural Awareness



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Project Number:2018-1-FR01-KA204-047883