

# Guess Who's Coming to Dinner



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## Goals and Objectives

Through this program, **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner**, students master their reading and researching skills. In this interdisciplinary unit, students use the Research Process Model to gather information on famous Americans. A research report is created for one class. As an additional assessment, students create place settings and flatware for a dinner party where the motif for the dinnerware reflects the life and interests of the famous American.

Students will be directed in the Research Process Model (RPM) method of researching and compiling information from encyclopedias, books, Internet sites, and other informational sources. The research and reference skills help prepare the students for the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test in reading.

### Objectives

Students will...

- ✓ research famous Americans.
- ✓ learn about diverse cultures.
- ✓ fabricate an invitation for a dinner party.
- ✓ design dinnerware and flatware in a motif reflecting the life and contributions of a famous American.

### Goals/ Sunshine State Standards

Students will...

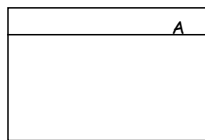
- use the Research Process Model (RPM) to locate information.
- logically sequence information.
- write notes and outlines that reflect comprehension of grade level content.
- proofread writing to correct convention errors in mechanics, usage, and punctuation, using dictionaries, handbooks, and other resources, including teacher or peers, as appropriate.
- use electronic technology appropriate to writing tasks to create, revise, retrieve, and verify information.

## Course Outline

The Research Process Model (RPM) is reviewed before taking students to the media center to complete research.

**Working outline** - Break the topic into areas to explore. Suggest topics the students should include such as childhood, family life, education, discoveries, contributions, awards, timeline of events etc. Remind them to modify the outline by adding and deleting information.

**Note cards** are integral organizational tools that allow students to collect and arrange information. Quotations, statistics, excerpts and summaries all follow the same format. Each time a new article is used the letter of the bib card and note changes.



**Organizing and sorting note cards** - Rearrange note cards according to topic and subtopic.

**Write a final outline from the final sort.** Delete unused categories from the outline. Include any additional information.

Students are taken to the media center to select an autobiography or biography based on a famous American. After four days of independent research, **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner**, begins since students should now be ready to identify the dream of the person and the strategies that helped them to achieve that dream.

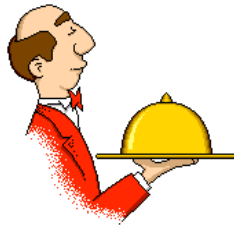


The first part is to create a guest list for dinner. The students are limited to four individuals who were instrumental in the famous American's life (i.e. parents, teachers, friends). A short description of each guest and the reasons they were invited is the first written assignment.

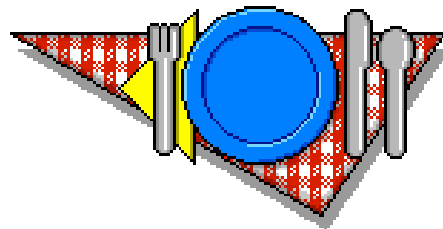
With the guest list complete, an invitation must be designed to invite these 'friends' to help your person celebrate his /her accomplishment(s).

## It's A Party!

What would a dinner party be without food? Next plan a menu for the guests. Consult various ethnic cookbooks, decide what you would prepare and consider giving each dish a name related to your (auto)biography.



Finally, create a sample place setting for your dinner party. Design a place mat, china pattern, cup and silverware decorations reflecting the person's life and accomplishments.



## Note card

The note card/ 'source' card is just a letter, no number. A source can be a book, Internet site, encyclopedia etc. Each time you get information from a new place (source) give it a new letter A B C etc.

A

Just place ONE fact on each card. You will use approximately 100 cards for this. Do not write on the back. That's right - only ONE fact.

A 1
Born in 1901 on a farm in Ohio

A 2
Attended Harvard 1920 -26

A 3
Married Sue Gorge in 1930

When you have compiled all the information, go back and identify where it will fit on the outline. Write this above the pink line,

Childhood	A 1
Born 1901 on a farm in Ohio	

Education	A 2
Attended Harvard 1920 -1926	

Family Life	A 3
Married Sue Gorge in 1930	

Place all of the cards with the same heading in one pile. Sort all your cards. You should now be able to tell where you need to fill in information. Remember, if you were unable to find some information in a topic you have on your original outline; that is normal.

Go back and revise the outline. Chances are you found facts you never thought to look for at first. Now is the time to revise your original outline.



# Famous American Research Project

Social Studies and Language Arts will be working together for the research report. As your language arts teacher, I will help to walk you through the Research Process Model (RPM).

For Language Arts you will be held accountable for three sections of the process:

- Outline
- Note cards
- Bibliographic format

A **working outline** is a roadmap to success. The outline charts exactly what you plan to address in your paper. Break your topic into areas you might want to explore. As you research, you will find parts of your paper will change. This is normal. Once you actually begin to find information, you will modify the outline by adding and deleting information.

**Note cards** are integral organizational tools that allow students to collect and arrange information. There are four types of notes you will write - quotations, statistics, excerpts and summaries. All of these will follow the same format.

- Do not write in the back of the cards.
- Write a capital letter in the upper right hand corner of the card above the pink line. This letter matches the bibliography (bib) card of the source you used.
- After the letter, write a number. This tells how many notes you have taken from that source.
- On the bottom right corner of the card, write the page # from where you copied the information.
- Start taking notes. Write only one thought, statistic or quote per card.
- When you have finished taking notes, write the topic and subtopic above the pink line on the left. This information comes from your working outline.

\*Each time you read an article the letter of the bib card and notes changes.

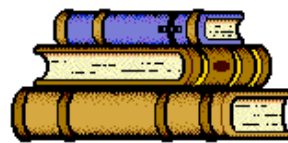
**Organizing and sorting your note cards** comes next. At this point the cards are stacked according to bibliography cards. Now you need to rearrange them according to topic and subtopic.

Look at the upper left-hand corner where you have written the topic and subtopic. This came from your working outline. Find all the cards that share the same topic, rubber band them together and put them aside. Do this for all the cards.

Now go back and rearrange each of these piles. Take one pile at a time. Place all the same categories together like education, childhood, and discoveries. Now you are ready to place these piles in some sort of logical order. This is the beginning of your rough draft and paragraph structure.

**Write a final outline from the final sort.** Your original outline was written before you began to research. Now you realize some of the information you thought you would find does not exist. You will need to delete these categories from your outline. However, you probably found information that you had not anticipated finding and you will need to add these categories to your outline.

Place all of the **bibliography** cards into one pile in alphabetical order. Your bibliography requires a minimum of four (4) sources. Only two (2) may be Internet sources. If you use an online encyclopedia, do **not** use one in book form.







## Famous American Outline

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- I. Childhood
  - a.
  - b.
- II. Family Life
  - a.
  - b.
- III. Ethnic background
- IV. Education
  - a.
    - 1.
    - 2.
  - b.
    - 1.
    - 2.
- V. Contributions
  - a.
    - 1.
    - 2.
  - b.
    - 1.
    - 2.
- VI. Awards
- VII. Additional Contributions
- VIII. Timeline
- IX. Miscellaneous
- X. Bibliography



### The Dinner Party

Create a guest list of four individuals who were instrumental in the famous American's life (i.e. parents, teachers, friends). A short description of each guest and the reasons they were invited is the first written assignment.

Guest 1 -

Reasons they are invited

Guest 2-

Reasons they are invited

Guest 3 -

Reasons they are invited

Guest 4 -

Reasons they are invited



### The Invitation

Fabricate an invitation. Invite people to help your person celebrate his or her accomplishment(s). Look over your notes to find ideas.

Who is the party for?

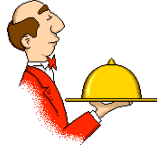
What are the reasons for the party?

Where will the festivities be held?

When will it take place?

Why is there a need to celebrate?

How will you decorate the invitation?



### The Food

Describe a meal that your person would enjoy. Consider the ethnic background, childhood and family information you discovered while researching. Think about what you could name the meal? The salad or dessert?



### The Place Setting

Finally create a sample place setting for your dinner party. Design a place mat, china pattern, cup and silverware decorations reflecting the famous person's life and accomplishments. Use the information you gathered in your research.

Family

Education

Accomplishments

Contributions

Awards

Important places

Miscellaneous information



### Student's Evaluation Form



Judge's name \_\_\_\_\_

As you pass through the Educational Fair today, you will assume the role of judge. Carefully examine the place settings and choose your top three. (Good sportsmanship dictates that you may not select your own work.) Look for the following qualities:

1. Famous American's **name** is clearly identified.
2. Mention of **event(s)** that made the person famous.
3. Invited **guests** make sense.
4. Invitation includes the **'The five W's**.
5. **Menu** shows appetizer, soup, salad, entrée and dessert.
6. **Dinnerware** reflects the person's life and accomplishments.
7. **Original** means nothing is store bought. Only pictures may be copies.
8. **Creativity** includes at least eight details about the individual.
9. **Neatness** makes it easy to read.
10. **Spelling** means no errors.

1<sup>st</sup> Place -  
Reasons:

2<sup>nd</sup> Place -  
Reasons:

3<sup>rd</sup> Place -  
Reasons:

Best of Class -  
Reasons:

## Evaluation and Student Assessment

Students are asked to synthesize the information they read about their famous American, so the evaluation is to be conducted on different levels. Since the entire project is completed in class, teacher observation of time management and the appropriateness of the place setting as it relates to their person is the first test. Secondly, the basic skills of incorporating Who, What, Where, When and Why in the invitations will be assessed. The final grading instrument of **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner** is a student assessment completed at an Educational Fair. All the place settings are displayed. Students are required to evaluate each setting and choose the "Best of Class".

### Resource list / Materials

Access to Media Center

Computers - Internet access and word processing software

MLA format

Biographies of famous scientist

Encyclopedia

### Publix

paper plates, napkins

place mats, doily

plastic forks, knives and spoons

paper bags

### Oriental Trading

chenille stems

stickers

foam pieces

googly eyes

beads

wire art

feathers

scissors

glue

puff paint

glitter glue

stamp/ stamp pads

colored markers/ pencils

tissue paper

fabric

## **Bibliography**

Check your media center for additional titles - individual and anthologies.

*Biography Today Performing Artists: Profiles of People of Interest to Young Readers (Biography Today Subject Series) Omnigraphics (May 30, 2005)*  
ISBN: 0780807103 \$39.00

*Biography Today: Profiles of People of Interest to Young Readers (Author Series. Vol. 4) Omnigraphics (July 1, 1995) ISBN 0780800141 \$39.00*

*Biography Today Scientists and Inventors: Profiles of People of Interest to Young Readers (Biography Today Scientists and Inventors Series) Omnigraphics (January 1, 2001) ISBN 0780804155 \$39.00*

*Biography Today Sports Series: Profiles of People of Interest to Young Readers (Biography Today Sports Series) Omnigraphics (October 1, 2002)*  
ISBN: 0780805119 \$39.00

### **Native Americans**

<http://www.factmonster.com/spot/aihmbioaz.html>

### **African Americans**

<http://www.factmonster.com/spot/afroambios.html>

### **Hispanic Americans**

<http://www.factmonster.com/spot/hhmbio7.html>

### **Asian American**

<http://www.factmonster.com/spot/apahmfirsts.html>

### **Famous Women of Past and Present**

<http://www.distinguishedwomen.com/alphabet/alphabet.html>