“The Great War” Research Project & Presentation

You will be split up into groups and give a presentation on one of the following issues:

1. “The Great War” Origins:
Where and how did it all begin? Europe was bursting at the seams as a result of years of imperialistic endeavors and oppression. As countries and empires looked to grab or hold on to power, tensions built up like a wildfire. Where did the tension come from and what was the spark that would ignite the world into its first “Great War”?  
- Franz Ferdinamd Moment

2. America enters into the war:
America and Wilson declared they would not get involved with the world’s problems and would remain neutral. But many factors led to the United States eventual entrance to the war. What were these issues and how did they sway the president and country to finally come to the aid of the allies? Were these issues the real reason for America’s fate to get into the war? Or were there underlying issues?
- Wilson writes his declaration of war

3. America and the world in a new kind of war:
How did Americans perceive the war? Were they excited, eager, or reluctant to go fight once Congress declared war on Germany? And once there what was it really like. Dive deep into the trenches to research what it was like on the front. Learn how the soldiers lived and fought each day. Discover new weapons and technology that had not been a part of previous wars. How they kept their wits as they waited. How was the moral at home during the fighting? What would have happened if the Americans had not entered the war?
- a scene in the trench

4. “the impact of the war after the war”:
What was the overall impact of the war on the world. How was it different and modern as compared to the past? How did it change things for the future? Did this first world war lead to the second? If so, how? What were the 14 points? What was the impact of the Treaty of Versailles? Did Wilson get the peace he wanted? Did we fail to correct the issues caused by WW1 and if so does this failure still haunt the world and the US today?
- What could have been the war to end all wars?? Documentary?

5. The roaring twenties:
This was an exciting time in America as the country witnessed a boom that brought about many dramatic changes…economically, socially, and politically. What were these changes, and what
were some positives and negatives of these changes. How did this affect people, and the country. What new and exciting things and ideas stemmed from this time period? - a song, poem, play, movie

*Presentation MUSTS:*

Presentation should be a good 10 minutes long for 3 or more members. At least 7 minutes for a group of 2. Each group member must speak, each member speaking the same amount of time. When speaking you may have cue cards, or look to your presentation, but you must not just read, and must make eye contact with your audience. You must include specific examples to your themes, ideas, and opinions, even if your presentation is a skit.

**RESOURCES:**
Use at least 4 resources, not including Wikipedia. Of the 4, 2 can be online and 2 must be from a book or database. Make sure to get different views and opinions on your subject. This may require more than 4 sources, so use as many as you can. Have your bibliography at the end of your presentation. Use noodletools to create your bibliography and share this with me. You can easily export your bibliography from noodletools to plug into your presentation.

*Key things to consider for your presentation:*

Think of the themes, what was the importance of the issues in their time period, the effects of your subject….etc
Find the origins to what you are researching/discussing. For example, if you are discussing trench warfare, how was it different from wars in the past? What impact in the end did it have on the way wars were fought. If you are discussing the outbreak of the war, why was there so much tension between the Austrian-Hungarians and the Serbs? Go back in time to find the answer. Get to know some of the people of the time period you are researching. If you are covering the actual war, find a letter a soldier wrote home to a loved one. If you are covering the Roaring Twenties, find a song that tells a story from that time period. Go to the source when and if you can.
Be as creative as you like! Tell a story….
Use skits, music, videos, pictures, etc.

You have learned how to pull out the important ideas and themes of a subject material. You have also learned how to look at individuals who have left their mark in history and understand what made them so fascinating and influential. Lastly you have learned to pull out the key facts that support the overall theme as well as your opinion.
In this project you will now do all of the above on your own, and with your group, for your topic.

Lastly, you will be responsible for learning the material your peers present. Before we head out on the holiday break, you will have an assessment to show you have learned from your classmates. Rest assured, it will be fun!