

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Research Project Guidelines**

Working in pairs or small groups, you will research a topic from the list below. Your job is to try to determine whether or not Jared Diamond's hypothesis about geography being the main determining factor in a nation's prosperity, power, and technological advancement. In addition, you are reviewing how the plant or animal you are researching impacted U.S. advancement, and eventually helped the U.S. become a world power.

#### Choosing a Topic:

Each pair/group will be assigned to research one of the plants or animals listed below.

- wheat
- barley
- rice
- corn
- sorghum
- cattle
- goats
- sheep
- pigs
- horses

#### Completing Your Research:

When researching, each person in the pair/group should answer the following questions about their plant/animal

- How did this plant/animal come to the U.S.?
  - Was it native to the U.S. or brought by someone else?
  - When was it introduced to the U.S.?
- How has this plant/animal had a positive impact on the U.S.?
  - What kinds of food or resources did/does it supply to people?
  - How is/was it used for trade or making money?
- What special conditions does this plant/animal require in order to thrive?
  - climate, food sources, terrain, growing season, temperature, etc.
- How did having this plant/animal help us gain wealth and power in the world?
- What would/did happen if this plant/animal was no longer a resource to the U.S.?
- In what ways have scientists used genetic engineering to change this plant/animal?
  - What is the process for genetically changing this species?
  - How have these genetic changes benefited man?
- What role does the latitude and shape of the North American continent play in the success of cultivating this plant/animal?
- Describe the growing/life cycle of this plant/animal and explain why our geography is important in this process.
- In what ways did the cultivation of this plant/animal contribute to U.S. expansion and success as a world power? Give specific examples.
- Other interesting facts you learned about your plant/animal

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### Preparing Your Project:

Once your research is completed, create a game that will teach others about the significance of your plant/animal. The game should be one that can be played by 2-4 players. The game should have all of the components of a regular game you would purchase in the store and play including:

- appropriate packaging
- clearly defined objectives for winning and rules of playing
- all game pieces, including a game board, dice, etc.

Keep in mind that the objective of the game is to teach others what you have learned about the significance of this plant or animal in the development of wealth and power in the U.S. You must also include ideas related to Jared Diamond's hypothesis that a nation's power and wealth is determined largely by geography.

My topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Project due date: \_\_\_\_\_