

Name: _____

Date: _____

Project Guide

Guns, Germs, and Steel: Episode 3

Directions: Read the guidelines below carefully. Complete your project according to the specifications and be prepared to share what you have learned with the class. Use what you have learned from viewing the film and completing the Viewing Guide, reading the companion website content, and participating in class discussion to assist you with preparing your project.

Choose a Project: The list below provides you with several ideas for projects related to what you have learned about the power of germs in the development of countries/societies. Choose a project from this list or create an idea of your own.

1. Learn more about how the human body fights disease and develops immunity to diseases by studying the physiological process. Conduct research that explains this process. Use your findings to construct a project that will teach others about this process. You must create a visual (Powerpoint presentation, poster, display board, etc.) that you can use to describe this process to others.
2. Examine the threat that the use of biological weapons poses for the countries of the world, particularly the U.S. Create a presentation that describes the scenarios for biological warfare, including the types of diseases that could be used, the means for infecting people with these diseases, and the potential effects of this type of attack. Conclude by discussing what steps the countries of the world can/could/should take to prevent such an event.
3. During the time that Europeans were colonizing Africa, they did not have the medical technology necessary to treat diseases such as smallpox and malaria. We have learned that preventable, communicable diseases are still causing a huge number of deaths in Africa each year. Research some of the simple ways these countries can combat the primary killers (Pneumonia, Tuberculosis, Diarrhea, and Malaria). Create a public service campaign to raise awareness about these diseases and what can be done to prevent and combat them. Present your public service campaign to the class along with things they can do to raise awareness of this issue.
4. Over the past 20 years, HIV/AIDS has killed millions worldwide, with Africa being particularly hard hit. Conduct research to learn about the spread of HIV/AIDS worldwide and explain why some areas are so much more hard hit than others. Provide a map or a graphic showing the rate of HIV/AIDS infection in developing countries vs. those that are already industrialized. Create a report card, Venn Diagram, or some other type of graphic that compares/contrasts developing vs. industrialized countries and what they are able to do to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and treat those who are already infected. Present these findings to the class.

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5. Using letters to government officials (such as the those associated with the World Health Organization), political cartoons, and editorials to discuss the importance of drawing attention to world health issues, particularly the spread of preventable, communicable diseases. In your piece, present your ideas about who should take responsibility of addressing world health crises such as those being experienced by developing countries. Provide specific ideas for fighting disease as well as strategies for paying for the war against germs. Discuss the positive economic impacts this could have on developing and industrialized countries alike. Present your letters, cartoons, and editorials to the class for discussion and debate.

6. Other ideas I have for this project include: (Describe your idea in the space below.)
(Remember to get teacher approval before choosing this option!)

Prepare Your Project: Working with your partner/group, conduct research to learn as much as you can about your project. Use technology, library, and artistic resources to create a project that you will be proud to share with your classmates. Projects should be colorful, easy to read and understand, and professionally presented. This means you must take time to learn your facts well, present them neatly and clearly in writing/pictures, and practice what you will say before sharing your work with the class.

Presenting Your Project: Each member of your pair/group should have an equal role in presenting what you have learned to the class. Be sure to divide responsibilities equally and practice what you will say before you make your presentation. Be ready to answer questions about what you learned as well as the ideas/opinions you are presenting.

Project Due Date Is: _____

Presentation Date Is: _____