LETTER FOR: Callanan Middle School

SUBJECT: Southwest Asia (Middle East) Project

Greetings Comrade,

I hope that you enjoyed your holiday break but it is my duty to inform you that President Obama needs to tap your expert knowledge on Southwest Asia. As I’m sure you know President Obama has set aside $800 million dollars to be invested in a Middle Eastern country next year. It is your job to conduct research on one of the possible locations listed on page 4 and provide a recommendation to the president on whether or not an investment should be made in that country.

It is of the upmost importance that the $800 million dollars makes an impact on the country that receives it. While the United States wants to help all of the people of the Middle East it is important that the gift of $800 million helps the United States gain a powerful ally in the region. Here are several different factors that your think tank should consider while developing your proposal:

-Standard of living (Avg. education level, live expectancy etc.)

-Strength of military (Is this a powerful country?)

-Country’s history (colonization history)

-Natural Resources (Oil reserves)

-Popularity of America within the country

-Current issues (War, famine, poverty, disease, equality, economy)

-Type of government (Sharia, Islamist, democracy, monarchy)

The President needs to make his decision by Thursday, January 10, 2013. By that date you need to have a typed report outlining your findings along with ten prepared tweets for the State Department’s twitter feed. Enclosed in this envelope is everything you need to complete your task. You have three powerful research tools, daily task lists, and a rubric of what the president needs.

The only greater calling you can have other than serving your country by this is to become a teacher one day. I know that you and your team will meet the four day deadline if you apply yourself to the fullest.

In Solidarity,

Mr. Patterson/Mrs. Smith

Secretary of State

LETTER FOR: Callanan Middle School

SUBJECT: Southwest Asia (Middle East) Project – Daily Task Checklist

**Day 1 (Friday)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Completed** | **Time** | **Tasks to accomplish** |
|  | 15 min. | Map/Vocab Quiz: Refresh memory on region after too much holiday eggnog. |
|  | 15 min. | Read over CIA packet documents. |
|  | 10 min. | Optional: Meet with group members to split up research. |
|  | 30 min. | Conduct investment research of certain countries. |

**Day 2 (Monday)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Completed** | **Time** | **Tasks to accomplish** |
|  | 10 min. | Optional: Meet with groups to outline goals for period. |
|  | 30 min. | Conduct research on investment locations. |
|  | 15min. | Optional: Meet with group share notes and decide what country you want to write on. |
|  | 10 min. | Notify the Secretary of State of what country you have decided to write to the president about. |

**Day 3 (Tuesday)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Completed** | **Time** | **Tasks to accomplish** |
|  | 60 min. | Using your research begin to develop persuasive report and tweets in word. |
|  | 5 min. | Have the Secretary of State check if you are saving to write place on your document. |
|  |  | Homework: Rough draft of persuasive report to president. |

**Day 4 (Wednesday)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Completed** | **Time** | **Tasks to accomplish** |
|  | 30 min. | Type rough draft of report and tweets. |
|  | 10 min. | Have another analyst read over your work. |
|  | 10 min. | Print final copy |

**Day 5 (Thursday)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Completed** | **Time** | **Tasks to accomplish** |
|  | 10 min. | Submit typed persuasive report to president along with 10 tweets. |

LETTER FOR: Callanan Middle School

SUBJECT: Southwest Asia (Middle East) Project – Think Tank Roles

Due to the fact that President Obama must make a decision so soon on which country to invest $800 million dollars in there have been dozens of other agents assigned to this project. The president wants a different persuasive report and set of tweets from each person. The reason for this is that the President feels that it will help him make the best decision possible.

However, during the research phase of your assignment you may work with up to two different analysts to break up and organize the information available. The below role descriptions and assignments are optional and may be changed based on a groups wishes. Once again, when the research phase is completed each person must submit their own report and tweets to the president.

1. CIA Agent-

Proposed Research Assignment

- Security issues, strength of military, interactions between countries

2. Chief Data Officer-

Research Assignment

-Standard of living, natural resources (oil)

3. Executive Press Secretary-

Research Assignment

-Current issues, type of government, popularity of America within the country

LETTER FOR: Callanan Middle School

SUBJECT: Southwest Asia (Middle East) Project – Investment Locations and Allocated Resources

**Possible Investment Locations-**

1. Iran

2. Iraq

3. Israel

4. Jordan

5. Lebanon

6. Saudi Arabia

7. Syria

8. United Arab Emirates

9. Yemen

**Agency Resources Available**

1. CIA Fact Book - <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/wfbExt/region_mde.html>

This resource has a collection of facts that our agency has put together over several decades. Information on this site is not only accurate but also detailed.

\*Hint- search “CIA Fact Book” on Google

3. Global Envision - <http://www.globalenvision.org/teachers>

When one of our agents comes across a current events article about a perspective country it is put on this website. You will need to scroll halfway down the page to see the option to select the Middle East.

\*Hint- search “Global Envision” on Google

2. Culture grams - <http://online.culturegrams.com/world/world_region.php?contid=3&wmn=Asia>

This resource is a great place to find information about Southwest Asia.

Login: Callan

Password: haea11

LETTER FOR: Callanan Middle School

SUBJECT: Southwest Asia (Middle East) Project – Final Product

**Report to President**

President Obama wants you to submit a report to him explaining whether or not the country that you researched in the Middle East needs and should get the $800 million dollars. In your report you need to explain why Southwest Asia, in particular this country, is important to the U.S. Your report needs to be at least three paragraphs long. Since the report is going to the president it needs to be extremely well written and needs to be in size 11 font. Make sure use cite the research that you been conducting over the last couple of days. Use your data (especially when concerning the standard of living of the country and oil output).

**State Department Tweets**

In case the president decides to invest the $800 million in the country you researched, 10 Tweets need to be prepared for the State Department Twitter account to explain the decision to the America public.

Tweets may only have 140 characters; you may use appropriate “slang.” #globalstudiesisawesome

**Report Setup**

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

Middle East Project

Block:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Skip a line)

Persuasive Report to President

(Skip a line)

Mr. President,

(Skip a line)

(Report to President)

(Skip a line)

State Department Tweets

(Skip a line)

(Tweets)

LETTER FOR: Callanan Middle School

SUBJECT: Southwest Asia (Middle East) Project –Rubric

**Learning Objectives**

5. Explain how religion and natural resources contribute to conflicts in Southwest Asia.

6. Explain how Southwest Asia is important to the U.S. and global economy.

9. Integrate visual information (charts, graphs, videos).

**Rubric - Report to the President** **Color**:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Green - Advanced** | **Blue - Proficient** | **Yellow – Close to Proficient** | **Orange – Far from Proficient** | **Red- Below Expectations** |
| Three paragraphs  Well written  Strong argument  Cites research to back argument  Shows mastery of content | Three paragraphs  Well written  Weak Argument  Research apparent  Shows mastery of content | Less than three paragraphs  Needs revision  Argument not apparent  Research haphazard  Show partial mastery of content | Less than three paragraphs  Needs revision  Student doesn’t take a stance  Research haphazard  Show partial mastery of content | Student fails to submit report or submits one that is well below grade level. |

**Rubric -State Department Tweets**  **Color**:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Green - Advanced** | **Blue - Proficient** | **Yellow – Close to Proficient** | **Orange – Far from Proficient** | **Red- Below Expectations** |
| 10 tweets  Well written  Cites research to back argument  On message with report | 8 tweets  Well written  Research apparent  Mostly on message with report | 6 tweets  Needs revision  Research is evident but lacks reason  On topic of Mid. E. | 6 tweets  Needs drastic revision  Research not apparent  Barely on topic | Student fails to submit tweets or submits tweets that are well below grade level. |