

Four WebQuest Scenarios

Take Me on Vacation!

A WebQuest for 3rd/4th Grade (Mathematics/English)



Summer vacation. Don't you just love the sound of those two words. Every school year we look forward to that weeklong trip we will take with mom, dad, and our siblings. Summer vacation is your chance to forget about school and have fun. This summer, you can't wait to go on vacation. The trip is almost three weeks away. You and your brother are so excited you can hardly wait! So you decide to go to Uncle Jimmy's house and go for a pre-vacation swim. As you walk out the front door you spot a note on the fridge. You go to read the note...

<http://oncampus.richmond.edu/academics/as/education/projects/webquests/vacation/>

Let's Have a Field Day!



A WebQuest for Middle School Students

The PTA needs your help! They are planning this year's Field Day for your grade level. This is an all day field trip to a park in San Bernardino County. It includes recreational activities available at that park (ie: swimming, horseback riding, etc.). In the past, members of the PTA have planned and arranged the day. This year, they have suggested that YOU develop a plan for the day!

<http://www.sbcss.k12.ca.us/sbcss/services/educational/cctechnology/webquest/fieldday.html>

DNA for Dinner? A WebQuest for High School Science



Scientists have recently developed the techniques to *insert genes* into plant crops to give the plants new traits. For example, genes for insect resistance, originally from bacteria, can be placed into corn or soybean or potato plants. Other genes can be inserted that are for resistance to plant viruses or fungi, or that make a plant resistant to herbicides that are ordinarily used to kill weeds in that crop field.

All of these things can directly *increase the yield or health value* of the crops and thus provide more food. In a world where people are starving, this is important. The use of genetically engineered crops such as this may also *reduce the use of environmentally harmful insecticides and herbicides*. But there are serious questions about the ramifications of this type of genetic engineering, too. Are these foods safe for us to eat, for farm animals to eat, and safe for the environment?

Today, more than one half of American soybeans, one half of the cotton, and one third of the corn that is grown is already genetically modified. More than 90 million acres of genetically engineered crops were grown worldwide in 1999 alone. Still, most people do not know very much about genetic engineering and biotechnology.

Currently, there are no requirements in the United States for genetically engineered food to be labelled in a special way. Why is this? What regulations are there of genetically modified crops? Do consumers want labels on food crops that state that they are genetically modified? Would such labels help or harm us in the long run? Why might we want labels and why might we not want them?

<http://www.gis.net/~peacewp/webquest.htm>



Look Who's Footing the Bill!

An Introductory WebQuest on Democracy and the National Debt

Probably you! That's who's going to foot the bill. At least you will in the future because the United States' national debt stands at over 5 trillion dollars (that's a five with, uh... 12 zeroes after it?).

If we don't like the idea that the U.S. Government uses money it doesn't have, why don't we all pitch in right now to clear the debt once and for all? Maybe you've already sampled Money Matters? and have some ideas about saving & spending? So, you know, we could all dig deep into our pockets, raid our piggy banks, give up a couple goodies, maybe even skip a present or two on our birthdays?

Yeah, right. How about this question: you got \$20,000 in your savings? Even if you did, would you mind not going to college or putting off buying your own home someday?

What about this plan: we can skip lunch and save that money... For the next 18 years!?! At \$3.00 per lunch, day-in and day-out that's what it would take. Does this bother you at all?

And why are you kids the ones who will have to pay off the U.S. National Debt? Ummm... because adults don't **feel** like it? How about now? Are you getting angry yet?

But wait! Some people say we don't need to worry about the debt. What we need is to keep growing the economy. After all, with the Internet and e-commerce, we live in a new era where it's important to boost the global economy. Then the debt will take care of itself.

Do you find all these huge numbers and disagreeing arguments confusing? Are you tempted to just ignore it? Have you got twenty grand in the bank? Thought so. Maybe we better look into this a little more deeply? Maybe even do something about it?

Welcome to democracy! Now let's get busy on this WebQuest.

Move through the links below to complete this WebQuest. Start with the Question / Task or turn to the Help! page for a Teacher's Guide. The Rubric link shows how students completing the WebQuest could be evaluated. The Dictionary link pops open a small window so users can find definitions online.

<http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/democracy/debtquest.html>