To Kill a Mockingbird
Mrs. Gornick’s Webquest
Introduction:

We have learned that history impacts fiction and the same is true in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. This webquest is designed to help you understand the themes of our novel by reading supporting articles from historical sources.

Prior knowledge is an absolutely essential component of a reader's comprehension. Gaining an understanding of the background knowledge will help you better understand character motivation and action, author's point of view, and the important themes in the novel.

Prediction is also an essential component of comprehension and each task will ask you to make a prediction about *To Kill a Mockingbird* based on the knowledge you gain from the articles.
Process:
Each group will become an expert in their set of articles and have to explain and teach their knowledge to other members of the class (those researching different articles).

Therefore, each individual is responsible for understanding and being able to explain the information.
Task:

1. Work as groups.

2. Each group should read through the websites and answer the questions provided. Share the document with Mrs. Gornick. If your group finishes early, you may review the slide "Fun Stuff" and learn more about *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

3. After each group has completed their assigned questions and provide a works cited for the articles read on each of the slides in a Google Document, you need to share that document with Mrs. Gornick.

4. Then the group will create a ppt in google drive to display the most important concepts of your assigned topic. You will need at least four slides depicting visuals and notes (do not write paragraphs of text-- you will not be allowed to read right off the slide for your presentation). Share presentation with Mrs. Gornick.

5. Your group will also create a guided notes sheet, which your teachers will copy for you, for students to take notes on during your presentation. Share document with Mrs. Gornick.
Question:
1. When and where was Harper Lee born?

2. What was her family like?

3. Who was her childhood best friend?

4. What did she study in college? Did she participate in any extra-curricular activities?

5. How did her decision to move to New York make *To Kill A Mockingbird* a reality?

6. What year was *To Kill A Mockingbird* published? When was it adapted to screen?

7. Was Harper Lee honored in any way following the publication of *To Kill A Mockingbird*?

8. Harper Lee's real life influenced many of the characters and events in *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Given what you have learned about her life (including personality traits, friends, family, experiences) make a prediction about what kinds of issues might surface in the book. Do you think that your knowledge about Harper Lee will influence your reading of the book? Should it influence your reading of the book? Why or why not?

Click here to find out.
http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/harperle.htm
http://www.biography.com/articles/Harper-Lee-9377021
Scottsboro Trials

type the answers to the questions in Google docs. Then send/share your answers to your teacher at sgornick@somervilleschools.org

Question:

1. Who were the Scottsboro Boys? How did they get into so much trouble?

2. Where and when did the Scottsboro Boys' original trial take place? How do you think this affected the outcome of their trial?

3. What does the NAACP acronym stand for? Why did the NAACP decide not to help the Scottsboro Boys?

4. The Communist Party came to the aid of the Scottsboro Boys. How did the South perceive the Communist Party, and how was it similar to the perception of blacks? What was the Communist Party's hidden agenda in providing aid to the Scottsboro Boys?

5. The Scottsboro Boy were not provided with adequate defense lawyers. Please list at least 3 ways in which the defense lawyers were inadequate.

6. Describe the trials. Were they fair or unfair? Please include at least 3 supporting facts to back up your description.

7. Were the Scottsboro Boys ever pardoned of their convictions?

8. The Scottsboro Boys' trial took place during the childhood of To Kill A Mockingbird's author, Harper Lee. Make a prediction about how this trial might be important to the book.

Click here to find out.
http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/FTrials/scottsboro/SB_acct.html
Question:
1. Please compare the three ladies' backgrounds from "Growing up White in the 1930s." How do their backgrounds differ from Mrs. Barge's background from "Growing up Black in the 1930s"?

2. The ladies in "Growing up White in the 1930s" talk about what made a "good family" in the South. What do they say makes a "good family"? How do you think Mrs. Barge would describe a "good family"? Compare and contrast the three ladies' families to Mrs. Barge's family, explain the similarities and differences. Based on your explanation, would Mrs. Barge's family be considered a "good family"? Why or why not?

3. List the occupations available to black women in the South in the 1930s according to Mrs. Barge's interview. How did these occupations influence Mrs. Barge's perception of white people? How did these occupations influence the perception of black people according to the three ladies' accounts from "Growing up White in the 1930s"?

4. Mrs. Barge ends her interview on a positive note by saying "you shouldn't put people into categories." Mrs. Barge clearly has a different opinion of white people than her father does. What does she say that proves this? How does her perception of white people differ from her father's? Why do you think that is?

5. Make a prediction based on these interviews about how Calpurnia (Black Woman working for the Finch Family) might feel about the Finches (Main Characters in the story, White Widowed Lawyer with two children). Why?

Click here to find out.
http://library.thinkquest.org/12111/mculley.html
http://library.thinkquest.org/12111/girl.html?tqskip1=1&tqtime=0227
The Great Depression

Type the answers to the questions in Google docs. Then send your answers to your teacher at sgornick@somervilleschools.org

Question:
1. What is "Black Tuesday" and why does it mark the beginning of the Great Depression?

2. What did President Herbert Hoover’s do to try to help Americans during the 1930’s?

3. What was the New Deal and who created it? How did the New Deal affect American citizens?

4. Who was hit hardest during the great depressions? Why? Who campaigned for their rights?

5. What was the Dust Bowl? How did the Dust Bowl affect the Midwest and the Southern Plains?

6. What was the “black blizzard” of April 14, 1935? How did it affect the Plains?

7. Given what you learned about the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl, make a prediction about what you think the setting of To Kill A Mockingbird will look like. What will the houses look like? What will the characters be wearing? How will the characters act towards each other? How will Scout's classmates act toward Scout knowing that her father is a lawyer?

Click here to find out:
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/general-article/dustbowl-great-depression/
http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Memories+of+the+dust+bowl:+for+people+of+the+Southern+Plains,+the+....-a0144296833
Jim Crow Laws

Type the answers to the questions in Google docs. Then send your answers to your teacher at sgornick@somervilleschools.org

Question:

1. Where did the term "Jim Crow" come from? How is the origin of this term offensive? List 3 ways.

2. Legally, African-Americans had the right to vote. How was their right to suffrage compromised? Please list 3 ways whites made it nearly impossible for blacks to vote.

3. How did the Plessy v. Ferguson case (1896) uphold Jim Crow laws? What effect did this case have on the lives (transportation, education, social implications, etc) of southern blacks?

4. Who was Booker T. Washington? Where did he live? What did he believe was the best way for southern African-Americans to survive in the South?

6. Who was W.E.B. DuBois? Where did he live? What did he believe was the best way for southern African-Americans to survive in the South?


8. How did many southern blacks escape the South? Where did they go? What was this movement called?


Click here to find out.

http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1559.html
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_people_booker.html
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_people_dubois.html
http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/great-migration
Behavior/Clothing/Education

type the answers to the questions in Google docs. Then send your answers to your teacher at sgornick@somervilleschools.org

Question:
1. According to the article, what relationship does clothing have on behavior?

2. What three factors should be kept in mind when choosing a child's outfit?

3. What were teachers expected to do during the 1930's as part of their jobs?

4. What was the dress code for girls and boys in school during the 1930's?

5. What did the teachers use to discipline their students?

6. Describe the classroom setting?

7. What groupings did people generally associate themselves with/to, as far as understanding society was presented in schools?

8. What was the last year of free education/year of graduation?

9. In the novel, To Kill a Mockingbird, the main character is a young girl. Based on your understanding of the expectations of children during the 1930's, predict what life might be like for the novel's main character.

Click here to find out.
http://tokillamockingbirdshs.pbworks.com/w/page/52161233/Proper%20Clothes%20-%20Proper%20Behavior
Addiction

Type the answers to the questions in Google docs. Then send your answers to your teacher at sgornick@somervilleschools.org.

Question:
1. What drug is a highly additive pain reliever?

2. Explain five characteristics of a typical 1920's typical morphine addict.

3. Whose diary do historians consider one of the best sources for women's views and lives during the 1850's?

4. Where would women go to be treated and often leave as drug addicts?

5. Why were addictive drugs such a temptation for women?

6. What was the Pharmacy Act of 1868? Why was it necessary?

7. Predict Mrs. Dubose's role as a typical morphine addict in *To Kill a Mockingbird.*

Click here to find out.
http://teachers.greenville.k12.sc.us/sites/lacwilli/Shared%20Documents额外%20credit%20docs/Morphine.pdf
https://www.cnsproductions.com/pdf/Aldrich.pdf
New Book

Type the answers to the questions in Google docs. Then send your answers to your teacher at sgornick@somervilleschools.org

Question:

1. What is the title of the long lost novel of Harper Lee, and when will it be released?

2. Explain the “prickly relationship” Harper Lee has with the residents of Monroeville.

3. Explain Ms. Carter’s role in Harper Lee’s life?

4. Which book was written first and what did the publisher say about it?

5. Summarize and explain the setting of *Go Set a Watchman*.

6. What did Alice, Lee’s sister, say about Lee in 2011?

7. Based on the summary of *Go Set a Watchman*, what do you predict to be a major theme in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Click here to find out.

Lynching

Type the answers to the questions in Google docs. Then send your answers to your teacher at sgornick@somervilleschools.org

Question:
1. What does Mark Twain say is man's weakness?
2. What does he call this weakness?
3. What does Twain say a lynching-mob would "like" to do?
4. What is Twain's remedy for a lynching-mob?
5. Why does he say his remedy will not work?
6. What does the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching say lynching does?
7. What does the Association say that lynching does to children who witness the lynching?
8. What groups of people does the Association call upon to stand against the lynching-mobs?
9. Predict how lynching and mob anarchy will affect the characters in To Kill a Mockingbird. Do you think anyone will stand up and, like Mark Twain said, be brave against the anger of a mob? Explain.

Click here to find out.
http://somervillenjk12.org/Page/3455

Found on Mrs. Gornick's Webpage under Mockingbird Articles
Now make a slideshow and guided notes about your topic.

Include who, what, where, when, how, why.

You can find your facts from the websites in this Webquest.
Evaluation
You will be evaluated based on the below criteria.

- Answers to questions on your group's assigned topic slide.

- Your presentation (including your PowerPoint)

- Your guided notes worksheet
Fun Stuff

If you are all done becoming an expert on your topic, here's some stuff for you to check out about *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

**Some quotes from* To Kill A Mockingbird:*  
http://www.quotegarden.com/bk-km.html

**Character list from *To Kill A Mockingbird:*  
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_characters_in_To_Kill_a_Mockingbird

**Pictures of the Scottsboro Boys:**  
http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/FTrials/scottsboro/SB_imag.html

**Pictures from the Great Depression:**  
http://history1900s.about.com/od/photographs/tp/greatdepressionpictures.htm

**The original trailer for *To Kill A Mockingbird* from 1962:**  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6UcFv5TqOc
Conclusion:

These are just a few of the many articles and historical events that impacted the writing and reading of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Keep this information in mind as you read the novel.