English First Peoples 10- Background Research project- Indigenous topics related to literature we will be studying, including Absolute True Diary of a Part Time Indian

In this project you will be researching a topic related to either the novel Absolute True Diary of a Part Time Indian by Sherman Alexie or a topic of interest related to this course.  These topics will all provide some background information to help us when we read the novel and when we go through other literature in this class.    After gathering your research, you will be creating an information handout to inform the rest of the class about the key elements of your assigned topic.

Your handout will need to include the important information you have been asked to research as well as visuals (diagrams/maps/pictures etc) to help us learn the topic. It must be easy to read and understand. It must be put in your own words, not just copied and pasted. You must include a list of the sources you got your information from on your handout.

You will be marked on the content of the assignment (how well you covered the important information), your use of visuals to teach the information (how well did your visuals help other students learn the information you presented in your handout), your summary of the information (putting information in your own words and in point form {-shouldn’t just be copying and pasting the information directly from your sources}), and how easy it was for other students to gather information from your information package (was it clear and easy to understand). This evaluation will be done by the teacher.   As well, you will be doing a self-assessment of your work in these same categories.

The possible topics are listed below.  The listed information to research is not exhaustive and is meant only as a starting point.   You may find additional important or interesting information you want to include. You can do this in a power point or in a word document.

Possible topics for each group to explore are:  (think- who, what, where, when, why, how and create questions to answer about your topic that give key/important information people should know) I have given you some ideas to start with but you may need to create more to give us a detailed snapshot about the topic. ( max-2 people per topic)

1. Spokane Indian Reservation
   * Location (maps), topography (describe land- mountains, water bodies), climate, wildlife, economy (traditional and modern- think jobs) other relevant information etc.
   * Wellpinit (where is it?)
   * Rearden Washington (where is it?)
2. Spokane and Coeur d' Alene tribes
   * brief history, traditional territory (maps) , cultural background/traditions, spiritual beliefs, language, connection to the land etc.
3. Sherman Alexie (author)
   * Who is he? Where does he live? What is his background(birth, parents, siblings, interests, hobbies, etc) –tell us about him, his life and his accomplishments
4. Indian reservation system in the United states –locations, history, and treaties
   * How many are there? Where are they located? (map) What types of treaties does the US or State governments have with indigenous nations in the United States? How is their system different from Canada?
5. Indian reservation system in the United States-living conditions
   * What are living conditions like on reserves in the United States? (drinking water, poverty, education, other factors?) Are conditions the same as in other towns and cities in the United States? Are some reservations better off than others? What is the government doing to address living conditions on reservations in the United States?
6. Reserves in Canada- locations, history and treaties.
   * How many are there? Where are they located? (map) How many have treaties signed with the government? How many don’t have treaties? What is the government doing to address nations that don’t have treaties?
7. Reserves in Canada- Living conditions
   * What are living conditions like on reserves in Canada? (drinking water, poverty, education, other factors) Are conditions the same as in other towns and cities in Canada? Are some reserves better off than others? What is the government doing to address living conditions on reserves in Canada?
8. Pick an indigenous author/poet in Canada and create a biography snapshot (max one person per author/poet)
   * Possible authors (only one per person) Richard Wagamese, Thomas King, Drew Hayden Taylor, Lee Maracle, Cherie Dimaline, Tomson Highway, Richard Van Camp, Billy-Ray Belcourt, Francine Cunningham, Alicia Elliot, Carol Rose GoldenEagle, Michelle Good, Harold R. Johnson, Brianna Jonnie, Helen Knott, Randy Lundy, Marie Mailhot, Darrel J. McLeod, Karen McBride, Shane Koyczan, Tyler Pennock, Waubgeshig Rice, Eden Robinson, Armand Garnet Ruffo, Paul Seesequasis, Tanya Tagaq, Tanya Talaga, Jean Teillet, Gyasi Ross, Jesse Thistle, Arielle Twist, Aaron Paquette, Katherena Vermette, Douglas Walbourne-Gough, Joshua Whitehead, Rudy Kelly, Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas, Fred Sasakamoose, Bob Joseph, Wab Kinew, Robin Wall Kimmerer, Clayton Thomas-Muller, Cecil King, Aviaq Johnston, Jordan Wheeler, Verna J. Kirkness, Ma-Nee Chacaby (if there is another author/poet not listed just ask me)
9. Pick an indigenous artist in Canada and create a biography snapshot (max one person per artist)
   * Possible artists (only one per person)-Russell Mather, Neal Shannocappo, Ken McNeil, Roy Henry Vickers, Bill Reid, Charles Edenshaw, Michelle Stoney, Robert Davidson, Christi Belcourt, Kelli Clifton, Ken Humpherville, Lawrence Knowles, Kenojuak Ashevak, Ben Spencer, Bill Bellis, Bill Helin, Bill Henderson, Bill Stevens, Norval Morrisseau, Indigenous Group of Seven, Daphne Odjig, Dempsey Bob, Alano Edzerza, Alexander Clifton Ridley, Amy Edgars, Andrew Williams, Andy Everson, April White, Lianna Spence, Art Campbell, Beau Dick, Brant Johnny Sr. , Bruce Alfred, Calvin A Hunt, Chief Tony Hunt, Chris Cook, Chris Russ, Cooper Wilson, Darrell White, David Mungo Knox, Denny Dixon, Donnie Edenshow, Henry Hunt, Stan Hunt, (if there is another artist not listed just ask me)
10. Pick an indigenous musician/band in Canada and create a biography snapshot max one person per musician/band)
    * Possible musicians/bands (only one per person)- Tanya Tagaq, A Tribe Called Red, The Halluci Nation, Digging Roots, Kuckles, Mob Bounce, Tara Williamson, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Snotty Nose Rez Kids, iskwe, Jeremy Dutcher, Julian Taylor, Logan Staats, Shanee Kish, Lee Harvey Osmond, Twin Flames, Tia Wood, Sebastian Gaskin, Jayli Wolf, Morgan Toney, Laura Niquay, Handsome Tiger, Willie Thrasher, Jeremy Parkin, Ceyanna Kootenhayoo (aka DJ Kookum), No More Moments, Jesse Jams, Dump Babes, Silla &Rise, Crown Lands, Ziibiwan, David Strickland, Que Rock, The North Sound, FxckMr. Wolf Castle, Silver Jackson, Indian Agent, Sihasin, David Morin, Astronomar, Ghostkeeper, Samantha Crain, (If there is another musician or band not listed just ask me)
11. Indian act
    * What is the Indian Act? When did it come into affect? What does it do? What are some key things people should know about the Indian Act? How does the Indian act affect first nations, metis and Inuit peoples in Canada?
12. Indigenous rights and title
    * What is it? How do they figure this out? What does it mean to have indigenous rights and title? How does indigenous rights and title affect First nations, Inuit and Metis people in Canada? What rights and responsibilities does this give them? What are some current issues related to Indigenous Rights and title and using/taking resources on the land? (mining, pipelines, forestry, hydro –dams)
13. Truth and reconciliation
    * What is it? How did it come about? What was its purpose? Who was involved? What were the results? What are the calls to action? How does this affect indigenous and non-indigenous peoples?
14. Adaawx/Oral Tradition
    * What are they? What is their purpose? Why are they important to first nations peoples? What are the protocols for sharing adaawx? Who owns an adaawx? Who can share it?

You will have two days with the computers to complete this assignment. They are due on Wednesday May 11.