

The Nations Project

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Note: Any modifications to the project in the 2014-2015 school year will be posted to <http://cmsblankenship.com>.

Objective: The students will identify the characteristics of nations and develop a nation through the simulation Civilization V. Students will research the modern nations that they represent in the simulation to develop an online portfolio about the nation and a virtual version of that nation in a MinecraftEdu map.

Workplace Scenario: Your team works for an intelligence institute, such as the RAND Corporation (see <http://www.rand.org>). Your task is to analyze past trends in the development of nations to develop predictive models for forecasting the impacts of emerging technologies and social policies. You will also develop a presentation tool about the nation you are analyzing – a three-dimensional map.

Evaluation: The project will be evaluated in parts. Student scores in the simulation will be evaluated as a percentage of the highest group score in their class period. The top-scoring group(s) earn 100%A. Other groups earn their percentage of the top group score. The digital portfolio and virtual map will be graded by rubrics.

The Simulation

Student will, in teams, seek to build their nations in the Civilization V simulation (using the Brave New World expansion pack). The simulation encompasses many characteristics of nations such as the development of technology and social policies. The participation will be graded based on a percentage score of the top team in each class to motivate students to do their best on the simulation.

The Digital Portfolio

Each team will compile a portfolio on its nation. The portfolio must include the items listed in the rubric.

	Zero	1	2	3
Nation Name	No project or not included.	Just English version included. Just native language included.	Includes both English and, if applicable, the native language version or version of an important second language group in the nation.	Includes all items in previous column and explains the origin of the name of the nation.
Map of the Nation	No project or not included.	A map is included from an Internet or other source without improvement or modification. No source is given or is not correctly cited.	A map is included from an Internet or other source without improvement or modification. <i>Source is given and correctly cited.</i>	A map is included from an Internet or other source <i>with</i> significant improvement or modification. Source is given and correctly cited.
World Map Showing Nation	No project or not included. Map incorrectly locates the nation.	A world map is included that shows the location of the modern nation.	A world map is included that shows the location of the modern nation and the nation as located in the simulation with correct labels.	A world map is included that shows the location of the modern nation and the nation as located in the simulation with correct labels. All continents and major oceans are clearly labeled. Neighboring nations are also clearly labeled.

<p>Language(s)</p>	<p>No project or not included. Incorrect.</p>	<p>The dominant language(s) is (are) correctly listed.</p>	<p>The dominant language(s) is (are) correctly listed. Each is listed with the correct number of speakers in that nation. Source(s) correctly documented.</p>	<p>The dominant language(s) is (are) correctly listed. Each is listed with the correct number of speakers in that nation. The language family and origin of each are correctly described. The portfolio includes an audio or video of a native speaker speaking the native language (for English-speaking nations use a speaker from that nation using a minority language, such as Gaelic). Source(s) correctly documented.</p>
<p>Current Form of Government</p>	<p>No project or not included. Incorrect.</p>	<p>The current form of government is listed with little or no explanation.</p>	<p>The current form of government is listed with a somewhat detailed explanation of how that government operates. Sources are provided and correctly cited.</p>	<p>The current form of government is explained in detail with current office holders listed for high offices. An apt comparison with the U.S. Government is made. Sources are provided and correctly cited.</p>

<p>Current Economic System</p>	<p>No project or not included. Incorrect.</p>	<p>The current economic system is listed with little or no explanation.</p>	<p>The current economic system is listed with a somewhat detailed explanation of how that system operates. Sources are provided and correctly cited.</p>	<p>The current economic system is explained in detail with current top ten (each) imports and exports listed and explained. Sources are provided and correctly cited.</p>
<p>Military</p>	<p>No project or not included. Incorrect.</p>	<p>A brief statement explains that the nation has a military and provides a few facts about the military of that nation.</p>	<p>The military of the nation is examined in terms of branches and numbers of people in each branch. Sources are provided and correctly cited.</p>	<p>The military of the nation is examined in terms of branches and numbers of people in each branch. The history of the military in the nation is examined. Sources are provided and correctly cited.</p>

The Virtual Map

Each team will create a three-dimensional map of their nation in MinecraftEdu. The maps will include the items described on the rubric.

	Zero	1	2	3
Elevation	Elevation is not indicated on the map.	Elevation is attempted but is incomplete or incorrect.	Elevation is indicated but the scale is unclear.	Elevation is clearly and accurately indicated with the scale documented on the map key.
Capital City	Not indicated or not correct in location or name. Misspelled.	Indicated in roughly the right location.	Clearly indicated in the correct location.	Clearly indicated in the correct location. Population is indicated on a bar graph with the scale documented on the map key. The capital is indicated in such a manner as to be distinct from all other cities on the map.
Bodies of Water (Rivers, lakes, reservoirs, fjords, gulfs, etc.)	Not indicated or indication is inaccurate, minimal, or not labeled.	A few bodies of water are indicated.	Most major bodies of water are clearly indicated.	The map includes and clearly labels all major bodies of water.
Biomes	Not indicated or indication is inaccurate, minimal, or not labeled.	A few biomes are indicated.	Most biomes are clearly indicated.	The map includes and clearly labels all biomes.
Population Graph	Not indicated or indication is inaccurate, minimal, or not labeled.	The population graph includes minor errors.	The population graph is accurate but shows only the population numbers with no further details.	The population graph is accurate and shows the population numbers with interesting additional details including growth trends, population pyramid, and demographic details. A single bar on the map key shows the population of the nation as a whole.

Transportation	Not indicated or indication is inaccurate, minimal, or not labeled.	An attempt is made but the information is incomplete, poorly labeled, or shows a lack of effort.	A few major roadways or railways are depicted and clearly labeled.	Most or all major roadways and railways are depicted and clearly labeled, giving the viewer a definite sense of how people and goods move within the nation.
Top Ten Cities	Not indicated or indication is inaccurate, minimal, or not labeled.	Five or fewer cities are indicated on the map or there are errors in the presentation of the cities on the map.	Six to nine cities are indicated on the map or there are minor errors in the presentation of the cities on the map.	All ten cities are clearly and accurately indicated on the map with a bar graph showing the population of each.