United States educational law requires that elementary or junior high students study their state’s history. Accelerated Christian Education has developed state history courses for Florida and Texas and now has available this helpful, guided information packet for all other states. By completing this state history project, your students will be able to fulfill their state’s requirements. As determined by the supervisor, completion of this state history packet at the 7th level may be optional for students if state studies are required and completed in fourth level.

This State History Research Project is a guided “hands-on” experience in research. The student should use the outline on page 3 as a topic guide and plan to spend some time at the local library perusing several books related to his state’s history. He may utilize encyclopedias, Internet resources, and other research materials. Not only will this state history project enhance the student’s understanding of his state heritage, but it will also help him develop a deeper appreciation for his home state.

The requirements for the State History Research Project are listed on the following pages. All work should be put into a portfolio or notebook and presented to the supervisor for evaluation. (A grading sheet is included with this packet.) The grade should be recorded on the Supervisor’s Progress Card, and the notebook saved for documentation of work completed. Evaluation of this notebook should be based on the following items:

Content (follows the outline) and Summary:  70 points
Visual Illustrations:  15 points
Creativity and Presentation:  10 points
Title Page and Bibliography:  5 points
STATE HISTORY RESEARCH PROJECT

Requirements for Independent Study

1. Locate, label, and color the following on the enclosed United States map:
   - Your state - green
   - Bordering states - yellow
   - Bordering bodies of water - blue

2. Draw a map of your state and label the following:
   - State capital - red star
   - Major cities - black dot
   - Your city - green x
   - Major rivers, lakes, and streams - blue
   - Mountain ranges - brown ^ ^ ^

3. Include visual illustrations of the following:
   - State bird
   - State animal
   - State tree
   - State flower
   - State seal
   - State flag

4. The student should also complete a written composition that follows the enclosed outline and consists of at least 20 handwritten pages. This composition should be neatly written in the student’s best handwriting with blue or black ink. If preferred, it may be done on a computer but should be a minimum of 15 pages, using 1.5 spacing and 12 point Times New Roman font.
   Note: The student must not copy directly from encyclopedias, resource books, or the Internet. He should gather his ideas and then compile the composition in his own words.

5. All parts of the State History Research Project must be incorporated into a notebook. Vinyl page report covers will hold items in place and keep pages neat.

6. The student may include additional appropriate newspaper clippings of major events in his state. The student may also include other information of particular interest about his state that may not be specifically required in the outline.

7. The State History Research Project represents a full semester of work; therefore, no grade should be given unless all above criteria are met.
STATE HISTORY RESEARCH PROJECT

I. Title page

See Examples 1 and 2 for proper formatting.

II. Outline for content

A. Geography
   1. Location
   2. Physical features
      a. Size
      b. Borders
      c. Rivers and lakes
      d. Topography
   3. Regions
   4. Climate
      a. Temperature
      b. Rainfall
      c. Winds and storms
   5. Resources
      a. Soil
      b. Minerals
      c. Vegetation
      d. Wildlife

B. Exploration (1500s to statehood)
   1. Explorers
      a. Nationality
      b. Accomplishments
   2. Cultures
      a. Early inhabitants
      b. Cultural contributions

C. Statehood
   1. Sovereign rulers prior to statehood
   2. Settlements
   3. Conflicts
      a. Dates and locations
      b. Famous people
      c. Victories, defeats, and decisions
   4. Government
      a. The capital
      b. Constitutions
D. Modern history (statehood through 1900s)
   1. Types of transportation
      a. Roads
      b. Railroads
      c. Other types
   2. Economic developments
      a. Businesses
      b. Imports and exports
      c. Population
      d. Employment
   3. Religious developments
   4. Political developments
      a. Elections
      b. Political parties

E. State symbols
   1. State seal
   2. State song
   3. State tree
   4. State bird
   5. State flower
   6. State animal
   7. State holidays

III. Student summary
    The student summary (minimum of one paragraph) is to include personal observations and
    favorite aspects (i.e., seasons, recreation, and geographic advantages) of the state. The summary
    should contain new knowledge gained from the project and how the student foresees it benefiting
    him and his family.

IV. Bibliography

   See Example 3
   for proper formatting.
SOUTH CAROLINA

“Palmetto State”

Prepared by
Jewel Harding

Prepared for
Lighthouse Christian Academy
State History Research Project

May 26, 2010
Example 2
Handwritten Title Page

Alaska

“The Last Frontier”

Prepared by
Alfred Fairbanks

Prepared for
Lighthouse Christian Academy
State History Research Project
June 6, 2010
Example 3
Bibliography Page

BIBLIOGRAPHY


• Set up page with one-inch left and right margins.
• List the entries alphabetically by author’s last name.
• For book titles with no author, alphabetize by title, disregarding The or A at the beginning of a title and draw a short line where the author would go.
• Do not number the entries.
• Indent the second line of each entry.
• Leave one blank (space) between entries.

¹ Some Internet sites may not include the author or publication information. Be sure to cite the title of the article and the complete address, along with the date the site was accessed.

² One author citation

³ For book citations with two authors, only invert (place in reverse order) the first author’s name, not the second author’s name.
### Content:

- **A. Geography (16 points total; 1 pt. ea.)**
  - 1. Location
  - Physical features
    - Size
    - Borders
    - Rivers and lakes
    - Topography
  - 3. Regions
  - 4. Climate
    - Temperature
    - Rainfall
    - Winds and storms
  - 5. Resources
    - Soil
    - Minerals
    - Vegetation
    - Wildlife

- **B. Exploration (12 points total; 2 pts. ea.)**
  - 1. Explorers
    - Nationality
    - Accomplishments
  - 2. Cultures
    - Early inhabitants
    - Cultural contributions

- **C. Statehood (10 points total; 1 pt. ea.)**
  - 1. Rulers prior to statehood
  - 2. Settlements
  - 3. Conflicts
    - Dates and locations
    - Famous people
    - Victories, defeats, and decisions
  - 4. Government
    - The capital
    - Constitutions

- **D. Modern history (13 points total; 1 pt. ea.)**
  - 1. Types of transportation
    - Roads
    - Railroads
    - Other types
  - 2. Economic developments
    - Businesses
    - Imports and Exports
    - Population
    - Employment

- **E. State symbols (14 points total; 2 pts. ea.)**
  - State seal
  - State song
  - State tree
  - State bird
  - State flower
  - State animal
  - State holidays

### Visual Illustrations (15 points)

- **U. S. map (5 points)**
  - Home state – green
  - Bordering states – yellow
  - Bordering bodies of water – blue

- **State map (5 points)**
  - Capital – red star
  - Major cities – black dots
  - Student’s city – green x
  - Major rivers, lakes, streams – blue
  - Mountain ranges – brown ^^^

- **State symbols (5 points)**
  - State bird
  - State animal
  - State tree
  - State flower
  - State seal
  - State flag

### Creativity and Presentation (10 points)

### Additional information (optional 1-5 points)

### Final Score

Graded by: ______________________________

Comments: ______________________________