

**Swift Creek Middle School**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Wiki Project – Africa**  
**Mr. Veliz – 2008**

**Objectives:**

By completing this project successfully you will accomplish these important objectives:

1. You will broaden your knowledge, and the knowledge of your classmates, of your assigned country;
2. You will gain an understanding and appreciation for group collaboration using the online tool Wikispaces.
3. Have Fun!!

**Groups and Topics:**

You have each been given an opportunity to select a group with which to work/collaborate on this project. While this is a group project, each member of the group will be judged – and graded – on the merits of her/his contribution to the group. Wikispaces provides a couple of ways of accessing each member of a group or space. That said, those groups that collaborate best will see the best individual grades. Successful groups are made up of successful individuals. That's the nature of group work – in school and in life.

Each group has also been given the opportunity to choose their topic country. All of the countries chosen should provide their groups with more than enough material to complete a first-rate Wikispace. In fact, you will have to be careful not to spread yourselves too thin by trying to cover too much. Stick to the areas assigned (see below).

**Your Group's Job:**

Your assignment is to create a Wikispace website that will educate anyone visiting your wiki about the country you have selected. Your site will focus on the following areas:

**1. Location and Physical Characteristics**

- a. *Where is it located? What climate? What types of vegetation, soil, and agricultural quality? What are its natural resources? What are some of its other physical characteristics?*

**2. Population and Cultural Characteristics**

- a. *How many people and where do they live? Consider things like population density and distribution?*
- b. *What are the cultural characteristics of the populace? Things to consider: race, religion, language, education levels, food, dress, and others.*

**3. Historical Background**

- a. *What are the important events in the history of your country?*
- b. *What events shaped what that country is today?*

**4. Major Economic Activities and Land Use**

- a. *What do the people do for a living? Examples: agriculture, service industry, manufacturing, recreation, transportation, trade, etc.*
- b. *How is the land used in your country? Rural vs. Urban*

**5. Problems and Prospects**

You can divide up responsibilities however you choose as a group. Your wiki should include multiple pages (Example: Intro homepage, History page, Culture page, etc.). I will also expect the use of various forms of media; such as video, pictures, maps, audio files, and others that you find appropriate. Creativity is an important component of this project.

## References and Sources

Your group has a number of source materials available for use. Government websites, other wikis, video websites, online libraries, books, magazines, and others should all be considered. Remember that putting your trust in only one source for any piece of information is never a good idea.

The whole group is responsible for ensuring that all references and sources are cited on your wiki. This can be done with footnotes, a reference page, or hyperlinks to source websites. ***The whole world can see your work*** and it is your responsibility that proper credit is given on all sources.

## Responsible Internet Use

### Keep these rules in mind when editing your Wikispaces:

Your wikis are public. Your work can be seen by anyone on the web. For this reason, it's pretty important that we follow some sensible guidelines for putting ourselves "out there"...

1. Your wikis (and blogs when we used them) are really just online extensions of our classroom. Speech that is not appropriate for class is not appropriate for your electronic forums either. While you are strongly encouraged to engage in debate and conversation with other participants, we also expect that you will conduct yourself in a manner representative of your school.
2. Never EVER EVER give out or record personal information on our wikis (blogs). Your wikis exists as a public space on the Internet. Don't share anything that you don't want the world to know. For your safety, be careful what you say, too. Don't give out your last name, your phone number or your home address. This is particularly important to remember if you have a personal online journal or blog elsewhere.
3. Again, your electronic forum is a public space. And if you put it on the Internet, odds are really good that it will stay on the Internet. Always. That means ten years from now when you are looking for a job, it might be possible for an employer to discover some really hateful or immature things you said when you were younger and more prone to foolish things. Be sure that anything you write you are proud of. It can come back to haunt you if you don't.
4. Never link to something you haven't read. While it isn't your job to police the Internet, when you link to something, you should make sure it is something that you really want to be associated with. If a link contains material that might be creepy or make some people uncomfortable, you should probably try a different source.

## Additional Information and Instructions

Be sure and check the main class period wiki often for additional information, instructions, and helpful tips. Anything posted there by me will be your responsibility. I didn't know or I didn't see it will not be a valid excuse.

## Due Date

Projects should be completed and wikis will be locked to further editing on **Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, at midnight.**

## Available Help

If the need arises, I will schedule afterschool help sessions to assist with technical issues or research related questions. Ask for help when you need it, and listen when others ask.