INTERVIEW WITH THE PAST

During Larry Daley’s adventure in Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian, he gets to talk with some of history’s most intriguing figures. Now it’s your turn! Prepare to find out how it feels to interview a legend like Amelia Earhart, Albert Einstein, or Abraham Lincoln — and how it feels to be a legend yourself!

PART A. First, choose a legendary figure from history whom you would like to portray in an interview. Use Internet and library resources to research his or her life, taking notes in the space provided below or on the back of this sheet if you need more room.

I will portray: ______________________________

Research Notes
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

PART B. Now pair up with a classmate. One of you will play the interviewer while the other portrays the historical figure. Then, you’ll switch roles! When it’s your turn to interview, review your partner’s research to familiarize yourself with the historical figure. Use the questions below to conduct your interview, adding questions of your own in the space provided.

Interview Questions

Hello, ____________________________________________!

Welcome to the 21st century!

1. What were your major accomplishments?

2. What were your regrets?

3. How did you influence others during and beyond your life?

4. What was your best and worst personality trait?

5. If you could have changed anything about yourself, what would it be and why?

6. If you were alive today, what changes would you like to make in your community?

7. ________________________________________________

8. ________________________________________________

9. ________________________________________________

10. ________________________________________________

11. ________________________________________________

12. ________________________________________________

Family Connection: Watch Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian on DVD together and take turns interviewing and portraying your favorite historical characters from the film. Videotape the interviews and enjoy watching your family bring history alive!
PART A. In small groups, pick one historical figure from Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian to sing about — Octavius, Napoleon Bonaparte, Teddy Roosevelt, Sacajawea, or anyone you want. Then gather background for your song by using Internet and library resources to answer the questions below.

Our Historical Figure:__________________________________________________________

1. List the basic facts about your historical figure.
   Date of birth:______________________________________________________________
   Birthplace:_______________________________________________________________
   Occupation:______________________________________________________________
   Date of death:____________________________________________________________
   Circumstances of death:____________________________________________________

2. What events shaped or changed this person’s life?
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

3. What obstacles did he/she overcome?
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

4. What risks did he/she take?
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

5. What adjectives would you use to describe this person? Give examples from his/her life that illustrate those qualities.
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

6. What made this person’s life special, interesting, remarkable, or admirable?
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

7. What important lessons did you learn from the way this person lived?
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

8. What effect did his/her life have on other people and the world?
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

9. Would the world be better or worse if this person hadn’t lived? How and why?
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

10. Was your person a “hero”? Why? Why not?
    ______________________________________________________________________
    ______________________________________________________________________

PART B. Now, with your group, create a rap or song about your historical figure. Include as many facts as possible from your research and use the back of this sheet to brainstorm lyrics or rhymes. Practice your song or rap to prepare for a battle of the bands. The band with the most facts about their historical figure will be the winner. Good luck!

Family Connection: Watch Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian on DVD with your family. Perform your rap or song for your family. Have them join the fun by playing instruments, singing along, or creating a song of their own.
**Bio-Poems**

Step into the shoes of your favorite historical character from *Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian* and describe their characteristics, hopes, fears, and life through a biographical poem.

**PART A.** Create a bio-poem about your favorite historical character from *Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian* using the format below. Attach a photo or draw a picture of your character in the space provided.

**My Favorite Historical Character**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name of Historical Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List four adjectives that describe his/her appearance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Who loves** __________________________________________

List three things he/she loves.

**Who fears** __________________________________________

List three things he/she fears.

**Who would like to see** __________________________________

List three places/events/happenings he/she would like to see.

**From** ____________________________

City, State, or Country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Name of Historical Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PART B.** Now create a bio-poem about yourself, adding a photo or drawing of yourself in the space provided. When you’ve finished, reflect on both poems and compare how you are similar to and different from your favorite historical figure.

**My Bio-Poem**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your First Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List four adjectives that describe your appearance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Who loves** __________________________________________

List three things you love.

**Who fears** __________________________________________

List three things you fear.

**Who would like to see** __________________________________

List three places/events/happenings he/she would like to see.

**From** ____________________________

City, State, or Country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your Last Name</th>
</tr>
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</table>

**Family Connection:** Watch *Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian* on DVD together and share your bio-poems with your family. Challenge your parents to write bio-poems of their own!
OUR CLASS MUSEUM

Larry Daley’s mission in Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian is to preserve history by keeping it safe and accurate. To keep his mission alive, it’s your turn to preserve your class history for future generations to enjoy.

PART A. How will history remember you? Fill out this questionnaire to claim your place in history!

Name: ________________________________
Age: ___________________________

1. What is your favorite book? _________________________________________________________________
2. What is your favorite movie? ________________________________________________________________
3. What is your favorite subject in school? _______________________________________________________
4. What makes you laugh? ___________________________________________________________________
5. What do you enjoy doing in your free time? ____________________________________________________
6. Whom do you most admire? __________________________________________________________________
7. What is your biggest accomplishment? _________________________________________________________
8. What three words best describe you? _____________________, _____________________, _____________________
9. What do you want to do when you grow up? ____________________________________________________
10. How do you want to be remembered? __________________________________________________________________________

PART B. Now it’s time to create a class museum so future generations can explore your life and times. Collect photos, magazine cut-outs, illustrations, newspaper stories, etc., that will show people of the future your world today. As a class, use the artifacts you collect to decorate the outside of a large cardboard box, then clip out your questionnaire and put it inside. Now you’re enshrined in your own class museum! Put your museum on display in your school library, or invite your parents to class for a museum tour.

Family Connection: Watch Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian on DVD together and create a family museum. Have each family member fill out a questionnaire and collect artifacts that illustrate his or her life.