CHOOSING A CAPITAL CITY

(Time varies)

OBJECTIVE(S)

Students learn how Washington, D.C. was selected as the capital city of the United States and students evaluate how other U.S. cities might be as the capital city of the United States.

MATERIALS

Historical background on Washington D.C. from website	"Capital City Project description" handout
Poster Board	Markers, Colored Pencils
Capital City Project Rubric	

GET READY

✓ Gain access to computers or a computer lab to allow students to access the Library of Congress informational web site.
✓ Make copies of Capital City Project description handout for each student.
✓ Make enough copies of the Capital City Project Rubric to evaluate each project.

INSTRUCTIONS

✓ Help students gain background information on how Washington, D.C. was chosen as the capital city of the United States using the resources provided.
✓ Lead the class in a discussion of why Washington, D.C. was chosen, including access to transportation routes, historical value, aesthetics, etc.
✓ Have students work in pairs or groups to select a new city to become the capital of the U.S.

✓ Each pair or group should select a different city and create a marketing plan outlining why their particular city is an appropriate choice. This presentation should include a poster promoting their city and its assets.
✓ Depending on availability, students may incorporate varying degrees of technology throughout their presentation, including, but not limited to, PowerPoint presentations and photo or video presentations.
✓ Have each pair or group present its poster and marketing plan to the teacher, a panel of judges, or the entire class.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

★ *What is the most persuasive factor for why your city would be a better capital city and why?*
★ *What is the least persuasive factor and why?*
★ *What factors are important in choosing a capital city today that were not important in 1790?*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

★ *How Washington, D.C. became the Capitol of the United States: A Library of Congress web site:*
http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/nation/jb_nation_capital_1.html
★ *Web site of the Architect of the Capitol:*
http://www.aoc.gov/
★ *A history of the United States Capitol:*
http://www.ushistory.org/us/20d.asp
★ *U.S. National Park Service web site about the U.S. Capitol:*
http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel/wash/dc76.html

✓ CHOOSING A CAPITAL CITY

United States Capital City Project

Imagine this:

The United States needs to find a new location for its capital city.

You (and your partner or team) will select a location and create a marketing project that will promote your city to be the next U.S. capital.

Your task is to create a poster that convinces capital city planners to select your location over the other proposals. Some things to consider for your proposal:

- Location within the country and to other states
- Access to transportation routes
- Access to water sources
- Population
- Historical significance
- Cultural significance
- Business opportunities
- Educational opportunities
- Points of interest
- Tourism
- Anything else that you think would help to promote your city in a positive fashion

CCD Chiesman Center for DEMOCRACY, INC.

CHOOSING A CAPITAL CITY

United States Capital City Proposal Rubric

City_____

Main promotional points for the city:

Effectiveness of Visual Aid: 5   4   3   2   1

Communication Skills: 5   4   3   2   1

Quality of Selling Points: 5   4   3   2   1

Strong points of presentation:

Points not addressed: