



# Founding Fathers Project

120pts

**Introduction:** In this class we have covered the early colonial days of America, the American Revolution, and the Constitutional Convention. During this era of time there have been 'larger than life' figures that were essential in crafting the political and social framework of the future United States. We call those figures today "Founding Fathers."

There were many Founding Fathers, too many to list here in totality, that helped to fight for and shape the future United States. While they are esteemed individuals in the annals of American History it is important to remember their humanity. These were real human beings with quirks, family issues, and personality flaws just like us. Not all of them agreed with each other but they agreed to disagree in order to bring into existence a nation enshrined with the principle of preserving life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

**Task:** Working either individually or in a small group of two you will use the internet resources provided to research one of the Founding Fathers of the United States listed below. This research will be used to create a presentation about them.

**Process:** Each person/group will choose a famous Founding Father from the following list:

- John Adams
- Samuel Adams
- Charles Carroll
- John Dickenson
- Benjamin Franklin
- William Findley
- Alexander Hamilton
- John Hancock
- Patrick Henry
- Thomas Jefferson
- Francis Hopkins
- Richard Henry Lee
- James Madison
- George Mason
- Gouverneur Morris
- William Paterson
- Charles Pinckney
- Edmund Randolph
- John Rutledge
- Benjamin Rush
- Roger Sherman
- George Washington
- James Wilson
- John Witherspoon
- George Wythe

Using the web sites provided below and any additional viable resources you find you will research your chosen Founding Father and compile your information into a PowerPoint, a booklet/pamphlet, and/or poster-board presentation. As you begin researching you need to focus upon covering at least the following pieces of information about them:

- a) A short biographical overview of their life. Consider some of the following:
  - a. What was the lifespan of the Founder?
  - b. When and where were they born?
  - c. What was their early life like? What about their parents? What about their religion? Education?
  - d. What did they do as a career/job before ever being a "Founding Father"?
  - e. What accomplishments did they make in their lifetime?
- b) What was their role as a 'Founding Father' of the United States? What were their accomplishments/achievements that impacted America somehow?
- c) What were their political views about the issues at the Constitutional Convention? \*You can do this even if they did not attend\*
- d) What was their role at the Constitutional Convention? \*If they were not at the Convention explain why they were not\*
- e) What did they do following the Constitutional Convention?
- f) Give a famous quote they are credited with saying THEN you must interpret the quote in your own words.

Be sure to avoid grammatical errors and misinformation. Your presentations should include relevant information & images & must include a "works cited" page and/or slide.

After completing this project you will need to answer the following reflective based questions. When answering the questions, a simple "yes" or "no" is not acceptable. Be sure to include a detailed explanation and use specific examples when possible. Answers may be typed or hand written on a separate sheet of paper and turned into Mr. Erskine the day the projects are due.

- What have you learned from your research?
- Did you already know any of this information?
- Did you find any of the information to be surprising?
- Did you find that any sources might not be reliable (were there any sources that seemed to give false, misleading, or contradictory information)?
- Did any of the sources seem especially biased (did it paint either an extremely positive or an extremely negative picture of the subject matter rather than simply present all of the facts)?
- During your research, did you come across any other framers about whom you thought it would be interesting to know more?

**Resources:** Below are a listing of websites both general and specific that can help in your research.

- <https://www.biography.com/people/groups/founding-fathers>
- <http://www.foundingfathers.info/>
- <http://www.history.com/> (type in the name of your founder and usually resources come up)
- <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/convention/the-delegates/>
- <http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/biographies/>
- [http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution\\_founding\\_fathers.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_founding_fathers.html)
- <http://constitutioncenter.org/learn/educational-resources/founding-fathers/>
- <http://www.usconstitution.net/constframe.html>

**DUE DATE:** You will be given 3 class periods to work on this project including today! This more than likely will not be enough time so you will have to work outside of class as well.

Your project will be **due Tuesday January 16<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of class!**

For PPTs you need to have them submitted via Google classroom no later than that day at the beginning of class!