

“We Didn’t Start the Fire”

Final Class Project

Introduction:

We didn’t start the fire
It was always burning,
Since the world’s been turning.
We didn’t start the fire
Well, we didn’t light it,
But we tried to fight it.
- Billy Joel

**PRESENTATION
DATE: MAY
11TH/15TH/17TH**

The above stanza is from the song “We Didn’t Start the Fire” by Billy Joel. What in the world is he talking about? That will be your task to discover throughout this project.

In this hit song from 1989, Joel names key historical events from 1949-1989. By examining the events in the song, you and your classmates will be searching for the answer to the question at the top of this page: “Who started the fire?” You will also be answering what he means by “fire”.

Schedule:

May 3rd – Unit 10 Test/Intro Project
May 5th – Computers/Research
May 9th – Prepare Presentations

May 11th – 1st day of Presentations
May 15th – 2nd day of presentations
May 17th – 3rd day of presentations
*REVIEW for Term Test
May 19th – FINAL – Term 4 Test

Task:

Your group’s task in this assignment is to research a section of the song and then present to the class in news show format an analysis of that section. Your individual task in this assignment is to answer a series of questions following the class presentations.

The Process:

1. First you’ll be put into groups of 3-4. Your team will be given certain years/topics from the song to research.
2. With your team, you will assume one of the following roles:

Culture Reporter:

Your job is to research and analyze those items within your years that apply to culture. This would include sports, entertainment, literature or any other topic that is **not politically** oriented.

Political Reporter:

Your job is to research and analyze those items within your years that apply to politics and government. This would include leaders of countries, wars, political events or any other topic that is politically oriented.

Geography Reporter:

Your job is to plot on a map the items from your groups' years. Your role is similar to a weather reporter, but you just give locations of events, people, etc. During the presentation you will use the overhead projector to display a world/country map(s), so you can show the class the locations. You will also be a support for the Culture Reporter during research.

Fire Tracker:

Your job is to decide why Billy Joel chose to include each item as a contributor to the "fire." You must analyze the facts your group has gathered about your items and determine what makes them significant, especially to our lives today. You will also be a support for the Political Reporter during research.

3. Once you've picked a role to play, you will begin your research. You will have two days on computers for research and class time to help prepare your presentation (roles, rehearsal, etc) This is plenty of time, however, there still may be preparation done at home.
4. Once your research is compiled, your team will begin working on the presentation. Remember you have 2 total school days to work on your presentation. You will need to present your information in the style of a television news show. During your presentation, you will follow the order that is listed in the role descriptions. Your presentation will need to be 10-12 minutes long. **Use visual aids.** However, ***YOU MAY ONLY USE POWERPOINT for PICTURES – NO TEXT.*** Your group can do a video on your own time to then show it to the class; however, this is not required, but would give you credit for going above and beyond.
5. During presentations, students will be required to take notes on other groups presentations. These notes will be used to help prepare for the Term Final on May 19th.

TEAM 1: YEARS 1980-1990

... Ayatollahs in Iran, Russians in Afghanistan,
Wheel of Fortune, Sally Ride, heavy metal, suicide
Foreign debts, homeless vets, AIDS, crack Bernie Goetz
Hyperdermics on the shore, China's under martial law,
Rock and roller cola wars, I can't take it anymore!

TEAM 2: EARLY 1990s

Noriega, Berlin Wall, "New Kids", Gulf War;
~~Russian schism—communism~~, Germans reunite.
Nelson in South Africa, Channel Tunnel, Kasparov,
Ice Caps, Poll Tax, Hubble in the sky.

TEAM 3: MID 1990s

Rodney King, CDs, Bombing over Lockerbie,
Grunge Hits - Nevermind, ~~Pee-Wee Herman out of line~~.
"Don't Ask, Don't Tell", Oklahoma City hell,
Farrakhan, "Million-Strong", Marching on the front lawn.

TEAM 4: LATE 1990s

"Four More, Clinton-Gore", Lewinsky then Tupac
Shakur, Cloned Sheep, Impeached, OJ goes free,
Harry Potter, Princess Di, Matthew Shepard hate crime;
Y2K, Columbine, "Party Like it's '99".

TEAM 5: EARLY 2000s

Hanging chads, Marc Rich, 9/11 Terrorists,
Enron undone, Sniper scare in Washington.
Furby, Ozzy, Eminem, Weapons in Iraq again;
Columbia, "Governator", Martha Stewart jail time.

TEAM 6: MID 2000s

Goldman-Sachs, "Brokeback", "Passion", Google, Arafat.
Hurricanes, Levees break, Children getting overweight.
Hussein gets hanged, Terri Schiavo "End the Pain",
David Hicks, Dixie Chicks, Rockets in the Gaza Strip. (uh oh uh oh)

TEAM 7: LATE 2000's

Businesses 'too big to fail', Phelps, Bolt, "Save the Whales",
Bailouts, California Proposition 8.
Barack Obama "Yes We Can", H1N1 back again;
King of Pop - world frowns; Housing bubble breakdown.

TEAM 8: EARLY 2010s

Unemployment on the rise, Civil Unions legalized,
Aid flotillas taken in, Citizens United wins;
Osama and Obamacare, Fighting in Tahrir Square,
Haiti Quake, Gulf spill, Tea Party Standstills.
Camping, Manning, WikiLeaks, Occupy Wall Street!
~~Linda K~~, Pepper Spray, What else do I have to say?

TEAM 9: MID 2010s

Medicare, Ceiling hit, Royal Wedding, deficits,
Kim Jong, Jobs gone, rise of the smartphones.
Ancient Mayan prophecies, irradiation in the sea,
speculation, gas price, outsourced workers' rights.