

Hello Families!

We are excited to begin our final project of the year. We are continuing to explore our year-long theme of sustainability. We are looking at sustainability through the lens of a historian. Our Driving Question for this project is “How have laws and famous americans contributed to the sustainability of our government?”

Learners will focus on:

- Writing a biography on a Famous American who impacted the government
  - This will include a three paragraph essay introducing the person, what he/she did to make them memorable, their major accomplishments and challenges they faced, and how they overcame them.
- Understanding the checks and balances that exist in the branches of the government
- Understanding reasons for rules and laws in the government
- Understanding the political party and election system through developing their own campaign for a new political party called the **Sustainability Party**
- Learners will participate in written and verbal reflection as well as one on one feedback using the attached rubric

How can you can help at home?

- Here are some links that you could work on at home with your learner. It would be beneficial if you could start a discussion and begin researching famous Americans that made an impact on the government.
  - <https://kids.usa.gov>
  - <http://bensguide.gpo.gov>
  - Famous Americans: <https://www.biographyonline.net/people/america/changed-us.html>
    - Please be sure your learner is researching someone who influenced the government, but not necessarily in a government role

Here are the standards we will focus on during this project:

**Social Studies:**

SS.2.3: Students explain governmental institutions and practices in the United States and other countries.

SS.3.4: Students understand the role of rules and laws in our daily lives and the basic structure of the U.S. government.

SS.3.4.6: Describe the lives of American heroes who took risks to secure our freedoms.

SS.2.5: Students understand the importance of individual action and character and explain how heroes from long ago and the recent past have made a difference in others' lives.

**Writing:**

W.2.2: Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.

W.3.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

W.3.4: With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose.

W.3.5: With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing.

If you have any questions throughout our project, be sure to check the project boards in the classrooms or contact your facilitator. We are available to meet with you in person as well as by email.

**Thanks,  
Team Voyagers**