Teacher:

Class:

Date:

 Historical Marker Project

 For the whole school year

Our region and hometowns are rich in history that many of us may not be aware of even though we live here. Did you know that [insert history examples here]? This project is designed to get you out and around the history rich region we live in; to increase your awareness and appreciation of that history, as well as provide you with a change of pace from sitting and doing homework. This is an active participation task. If you happen to travel out of town during the school year, historical places that you may visit while away may also be used for this project.

You will create a passport for this project and visit a minimum of eight (8) places that have historical markers, adding them to your passport. If you were assigned this project last year, I will return your passport from last year for you to add eight more places to it this year. Those of you who did not turn yours in last year will be given a new one. The historical places with markers that you visit must be all different markers than those you visited last year.

When you visit a marker, a photo of yourself at the marker or site is to be taken. You must be in the photo at the time it is taken, not photo-shopped or cut and pasted in. You will attach a 3' x 2.5'' copy of the photo on the front of an orange postcard that you are required to use. Once that is complete, you will write or type and paste the required information on the back of the postcard. You will make sure your name is on the front of the postcard under the photo and turn it in by the required date. It will then be put up on the map or on one of the bulletin boards in our classroom. You will also see me to have your passport stamped, showing that I have checked your work. Students will need to produce a minimum of two (2) postcards per marking period, with eight (8) due by the end of the year. Photos must have been taken within this school year ([insert dates/time frame here]). Each postcard is worth 50 points; 25 for visiting and photographing the marker, and 25 points for completing the postcard and description. Some historical markers have somewhat scant information. Related information can be found online for most of them.

Here are a couple recommendations. Get a few of your images taken well in advance of their due date, especially because winter weather conditions can make it more difficult to reach and take pictures of historical places. Get together with a group of friends and on your way to a mall or a movie theater, look around, and when you see a sign, ask your driver to stop so you can get a picture. Make a day of visiting historic sites, whether it is locally or while visiting places away from home. Check the Historical Marker Database at [www.hmdb.org](http://www.hmdb.org) ; use the geographic lists search tab to look for markers.

# This project has been met with enthusiasm by a large number of students over the time we have been doing our version of it at Wilson Middle School in Wilson, NY. This could be a fun change of pace and an opportunity for your parents to be actively involved in something you’re doing for school. Many students who have approached it with those things in mind have had a great deal of fun.

This is your assignment and the vast majority of the responsibility for completing each postcard by its due date is yours. It is up to you to ask for rides and print out pictures and such. That does not mean I am not willing to help, but my help is contingent upon the initiative you take in recognizing that you need help and informing me at a time that allows me to help. Today is [insert date]. Your first card is due on [Xday, month day]. That means you have a little less than X weeks, for the first one, and 4 to 5 weeks in between each of the remaining cards. Do not wait until the night before these are due only to find out you cannot print it or that you lost the photo or something like that. Given the amount of time you have in between each due date, and the fact that I encourage you to complete the cards in advance, there is very little room for reasonable sympathy for missing a due date. You need to work to complete the cards so that you can identify and solve any problems that may arise.

Due Dates are as follows.

Card 1: X

Card 3: X

Card 5: X

Cards 7 and 8: X

Card 2: X

Card 4: X

Card 6: X

The final two cards are due on the same day. If we take a field trip to a historic site in the spring or early summer, the pictures for the final two cards can be gotten there.

Take this home tonight, review it with a parent or guardian and then complete the following acknowledgment.

I have read the above project description and understand its content.

Parent Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This acknowledgement is due back on [insert date here].

*~ This project was originally created for 7th and 8th grades by Ms. Maureen Mahar, a teacher at the Wilson School District in Wilson, NY, with implementation input by her colleagues Jim Alderman and Brett Sippel. As the project appears here, it has been modified by the Historical Marker Database for use by teachers everywhere.*