

DO YOU KNOW JACK?

A WebQuest for High School History

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Intro:

He only comes out at night and he goes straight for the throat. No, we're not talking about Rob-Pat from the latest Twilight movie. We're talking about Jack the Ripper.

The Jack the Ripper case has remained an unsolved mystery since 1888. This unidentified man is accused of killing anywhere from 5 to 90 women in the Whitechapel area of England. Who could have done such a terrible deed? Nobody knows for sure... unless he's The Ripper himself!

Task:



First, each of you will examine resources for facts on the murders, be sure to keep track of your sources to cite later. Next, you'll swap info and talk about who *you* think the killer is. Then together you'll use the evidence to present a suspect to the Scotland Yard (aka your classmates.)

Steps:

Who do you think Jack the Ripper is? The three of you will travel back in time to help solve the mystery of Jack the Ripper. You will have 4 days to report back to the Scotland Yard. But hurry, there's a killer on the loose!



One of you will take on the role of **detective**, take this job if you've got a knack for facts. One of you will act as the **coroner**. Interested in biology or medicine? This one's for you. (WARNING: If you get sick, quick this one's *not* for you.) Finally, one of you will play a **newspaper reporter**, chose this task if you like to write or if you've got a flair for the dramatic.

The **detective** will go to [UK Metropolitan Police](#). What would a detective want to know?

The **medical examiner** will go to [Casebook: Jack the Ripper](#). What would a medical examiner want to know?

The **newspaper reporter** will go to [Casebook: Jack the Ripper](#). What would a newspaper reporter want to know?



Each of you will find the answers to these questions to help in the investigation:

1. Who is suspected of being Jack the Ripper and why?
2. What are the other names Jack the Ripper is known by and why?
3. Who are the 5 Canonical women?
4. Where and when did these 5 murders happen?
5. What do the murders have in common?
6. Why did he do it?
7. Who do you think is Jack the Ripper? Why do you think so?

Print out or type into this [chart](#) to document your evidence. Can't find what you're looking for? Visit the other websites to find more info. You'll also want to keep track of events to plot on a timeline later.




Once you've answered these questions individually, share your findings. The detective, medical examiner, and newspaper reporter will all present their evidence to the other team members; be sure to back up your answers with info from the websites. What answers do you all have that are the same? Which ones are different? Come to an agreement on ONE suspect to present your case to Scotland Yard.

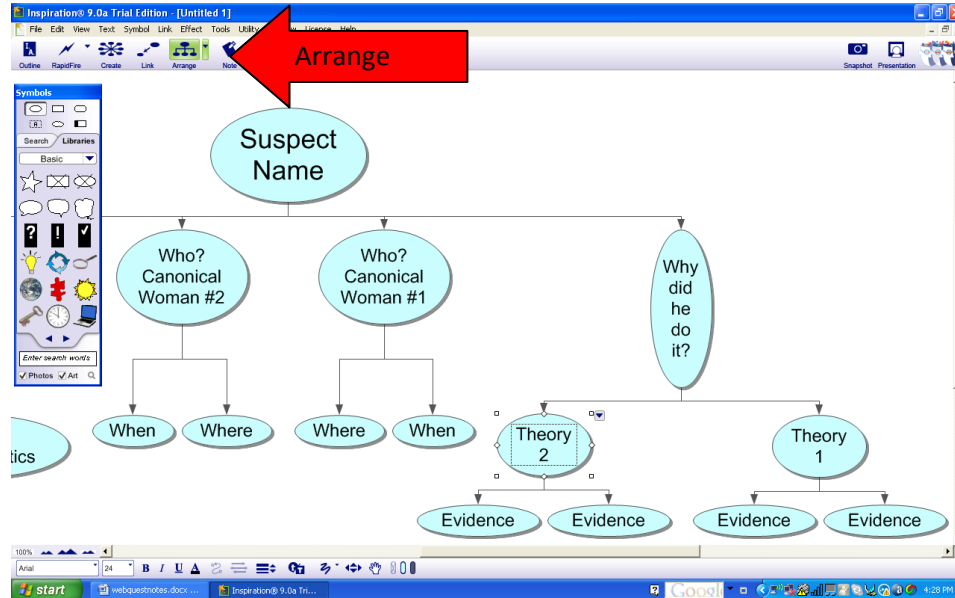


Using the Inspiration Outline function, create a diagram together with your lead suspect as the "Main Idea." Add the key points from your answer chart that link this suspect to the murders as "Topics" and the supporting evidence as "Subtopics." You must list at least 7 Topics with at least 2 subtopics each. Think about answering Who, What, When, Where, Why?




After you've created the outline choose "Diagram" from the menu to see the outline in Diagram view. The screen above is an example of what your outline might contain, but be

creative!  The “Arrange” menu can help you organize the layout of the diagram. You can select: Tree, Web, or Split Tree to change the view. The example below is in the “Tree” arrangement. You can also explore the Diagram page for adding enhancements like colors, symbols, and even web links. When you’re finished be sure to save your work for later use.

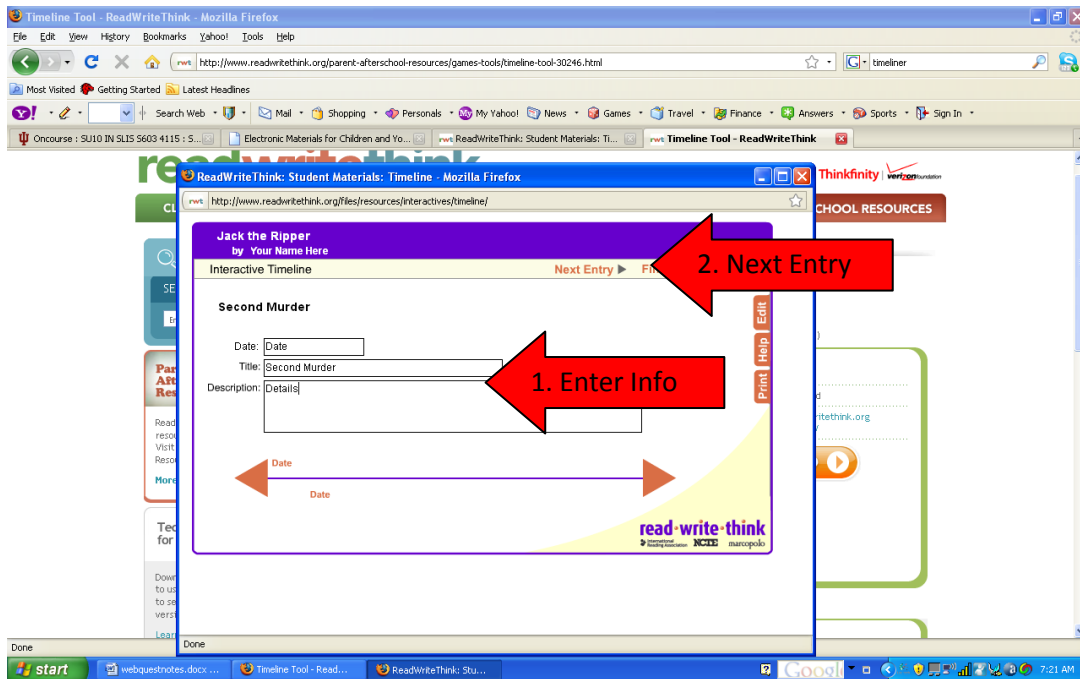


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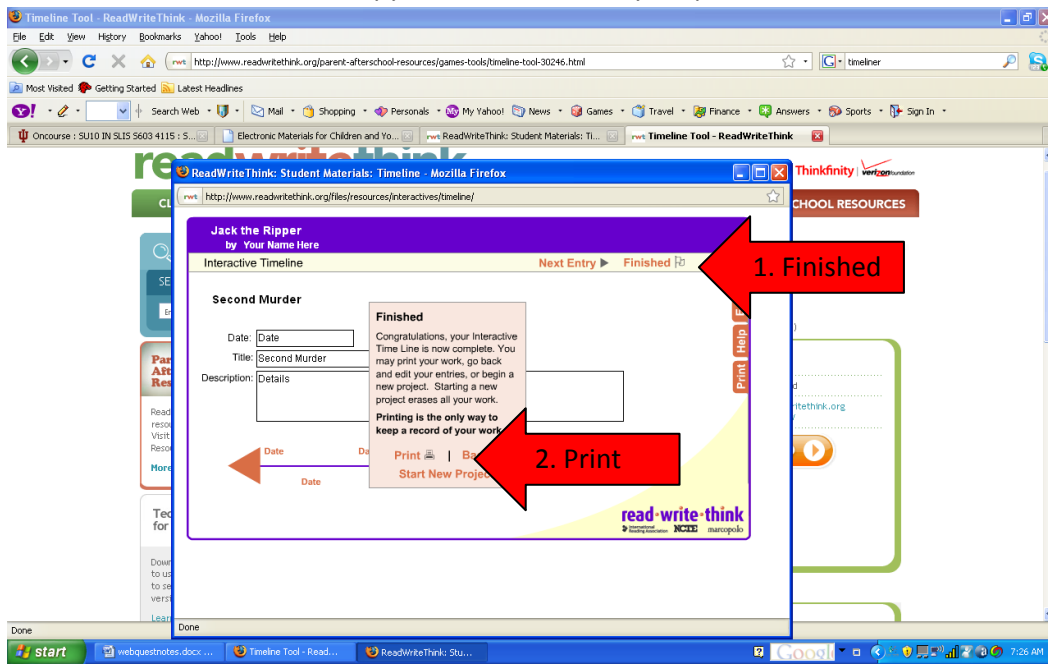
 Next, the group will go to [ReadWriteThink: Timeline Tool](http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/timeline/) to create an interactive timeline of the murders and events; just click “Get Started” to get started. Enter the information you’re asked for and choose a Unit of Measure to plot your timeline by. Select “Next Entry” to enter events.



Next, you'll enter the info like: Date, Title, and Description. Select "Next Entry" every time you want to add a new event or date. Remember you need at least 7 events on your timeline.



To state the obvious, when you're finished, click "Finished." Then select "Print" from the pop-up screen. Unfortunately this page cannot be saved so print 3 copies, one for each of you to hold on to. Use the scanner to scan in a copy of the timeline for your presentation to the Yard.



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Conclusion:



Now it's time to present your case to the Scotland Yard. Divide up the following tasks. Each presentation should last 3-5 minutes.

1. Present background information on the Jack the Ripper case. What can you do to get the Yard's attention? Retell the scene of the crime? Read the Ripper's letter? Bring a spooky artifact? **DO NOT EVEN CONSIDER BRINGING A KNIFE OR ANY OTHER WEAPON!!** (This person must also do task #4.)
2. Display and provide details about the timeline your group created using ReadWriteThink.
3. Display and discuss the diagram created in Inspiration. Explain why this suspect is Jack the Ripper.
4. Summarize the case and ask the Yard to make a ruling, Guilty or Not Guilty?

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Evaluation: The Ripper Rubric

Your entire project will be evaluated using this rubric. To earn all possible points be sure your projects meet or exceed these standards. This is the same rubric your teacher will use during grading.

Task	Undeveloped 1pt	Satisfactory 2 pts	Accomplished 3pts	Excellent 4pts	Score
Student use of Evidence Chart	Student answered less than 5 questions completely and/or missing citations. If the evidence chart is not used at all, no points will be given.	Student answered 5 questions completely and /or some citations missing.	Student answered 6 to 7 questions completely including citations.	Student answered all questions and provided citations for all sources.	
Organization of Inspiration Outline	Outline contains 5 or less Topics and/or missing both Subtopics. If no outline is created no points will be given.	Outline contains 6 Topics and/or missing some Subtopics.	Outline contains 7 Topics including 2 Subtopics for each.	Outline contains more than 7 Topics including 2 or more Subtopics for each.	

Quality of Timeline created using ReadWriteThink	Timeline contains 5 events, MUST include deaths of 5 Canonical Women or no points will be awarded.	Timeline contains 6 events including the deaths of 5 Canonical Women and/ or is missing descriptions.	Timeline contains 7 events including the deaths of the 5 Canonical Women and contains all descriptions.	Timeline contains more than 7 events including descriptions.	
Presentation to Scotland Yard.	Presentation is disorganized, less than 3 minutes, and / or no display item is used. If no presentation is given no points will be awarded.	Presentation is less than 3 minutes and / or no display item is used.	Presentation is complete, display item is used.	Presentation is well thought out, given in character role, and display item is used.	
Contribution to Group	Only participated in 1 group activity and/ or very little contributed from their personal chart. No points will be awarded if no contribution to group activities.	Participated in 2 group activities and/ or contributed very little from their personal evidence chart.	Participated in all 3 group activities, contributed multiple items of evidence from their personal chart.	Exhibited leadership qualities, participated in all 3 activities, and contributed many items of evidence from their personal chart.	

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For Teachers:

This WebQuest is designed for high school students because of the graphic nature of the Jack the Ripper case. It could easily be adapted to cover any mystery or person of interest. The WebQuest should take 4 days to complete (one major activity per day): Evidence Chart, Inspiration Diagram, Timeline, and Presentation. It may be helpful to create a timeline of expected completion times or days.

To involve the entire class, the WebQuest could also be expanded into a mock trial using the detective, coroner, and newspaper reporter roles presented here but also adding judge, jury, lawyers, suspects, and witnesses.



Lesson Plans & Activities:

[Teachnet-UK: Jack the Ripper](#) – Guides, resources, and lesson plans featuring The Ripper.

[Active History: Jack the Ripper](#) – This website lists worksheets and interactive exercises. It also has audio/ visual resources and games.

[Active History: Crime and Punishment](#) – Scroll down to the 19th Century section to find activities featuring Jack the Ripper.

[Morris Butler House: From Dark Pages](#) – From Dark Pages is a progressive mystery play featuring Jack the Ripper. Visit this site for details on shows.



Resources:

[ReadWriteThink: Timeline Tool](#) – An online interactive timeline builder for students.

[Inspiration Software](#) – Users can create diagrams to display information visually. Educators can download a free 30 day trial.

[UK Metropolitan Police](#) – Students can search the history of the Scotland Yard.

[Casebook: Jack the Ripper](#) – A well designed, independent site with accessible information about Jack the Ripper.



The clip art featured in this WebQuest came from the following sources:

www.findfreegraphics.com – “dark man” graphic at the beginning of the page

www.freeclipartnow.com – knife icon

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Evidence Chart

Question	Answer	Website URL	Valid Source? Why?
1. Who is suspected of being Jack the Ripper? Why?			
2. What are the other names Jack the Ripper is known by? Why?			
3. Who are known as the 5 Canonical Women?	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.		
4. Where and when did these 5 murders happen?	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.		
5. What do the murders have in common?			
6. Why did he do it?			
7. Who is Jack the Ripper? Why do you think so?			
IMPORTANT EVENTS List murders, dates, letters sent, and any other important events / dates you come across in your research. You'll be using it later to create a timeline. You must have at least 7 items listed.	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.		

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