GHOST TOWN THEME PARK

Project Based Learning

2nd - 5th Grade Print & Google Slides



Research real Ghost Towns with differentiated passages.



Plan how to decorate your Ghost Town with your math skills.





Market your Ghost Town.

For the Teacher

This **Ghost Town Attraction** Project Based Learning packet will provide your students with a variety of engaging and fun learning challenges using the theme of designing a ghost town. Students will practice map skills, math with money and budgeting, research, and persuasive writing. This PBL packet can be used with students in grades 2-5. There are differentiated reading passages and math challenges to suit your student's needs.

Directions:

1. Decide if your class will complete the project as a whole group, in small groups, or independently.
2. Copy packets and provide students with materials necessary to complete the packet.
3. Students should complete the project over several days.
4. Preview the activity with your students.
5. Challenge activities can be assigned or can be optional.
6. Students will complete the self-evaluation reflection rubric.
7. Allow students an opportunity to share their completed projects.



Suggested Challenge Order & Teaching Notes:

1. Have students read the informational passage titled, "What Are Ghost Towns?" to activate their thinking and provide background knowledge. Note: This passage is written at three different Lexile levels.
2. Allow students to complete their own research on a ghost town. Provide students access to the QR codes to scan. They can randomly select one or you can assign one to them. These QR codes will take students to the Google Earth location of a specific ghost town. Students will complete the Ghost Town Profile using information provide by the Google Earth link and further online research of their own. Optional: If you do not want to use the QR codes, let students explore the internet to find their own

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ghost town to learn more about. Note: You could extend this activity into a writing activity by having students compile their Ghost Town Profile into a written response. Students can share their research with the class or post their work on a bulletin board.

3. Explain to students that they have purchased a ghost town to turn into an attraction for others to visit. Before they can open the gates, they must be ready for guests and promote their ghost town on the internet.
4. Have students complete the Ghost Town Attraction Brainstorm organizer.
5. Students will need to follow the guidelines to create a map of their ghost town, so that guests know how to get around and what to check out. Optional: Find theme park maps online to give students examples (bonus if the parks are in your area!). Students can complete their final maps on the template provided or on large white paper or graphing paper.
6. Have students purchase decorations for their Welcome Center. Note: there are three versions of this math challenge for you to choose from, based on the level of your students.
7. Introduce students to some descriptive words that work well when describing a ghost town. There are 12 vocabulary word cards that are perfect to hang around the room for students to see.
8. Let students refer back to their brainstorming sheet and create a logo and a slogan for their ghost town attraction. If needed, use the "Creating A Logo & Slogan" chart to help students understand the purpose of these.
9. Have students create a website for their ghost town. Encourage students to make their website engaging to possible customers! Optional: Allow students to take their website draft and put it to action, using a free website program, such as Google Sites.
10. Students should complete the writing assignment describing their ghost town attraction. Allow students to refer back to their maps, logo, slogan, and website for ideas. They should also include many of the new descriptive vocabulary words they have learned.

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What Are Ghost Towns?

Version 1
790L

Broken skeletons of buildings. Abandoned dusty roads. Rusting equipment. Quiet. Too quiet. This might be the scene you encounter if you've stumbled into a ghost town. Such towns were once bustling with activity only to become like graveyards. The label "ghost town" is applied to any city, town, or village that is deserted but has visible remains of a settlement. A settlement is an area where people have developed a community. Ghost towns don't necessarily have ghosts, although ghost sightings and other paranormal activity have sometimes been reported in them.

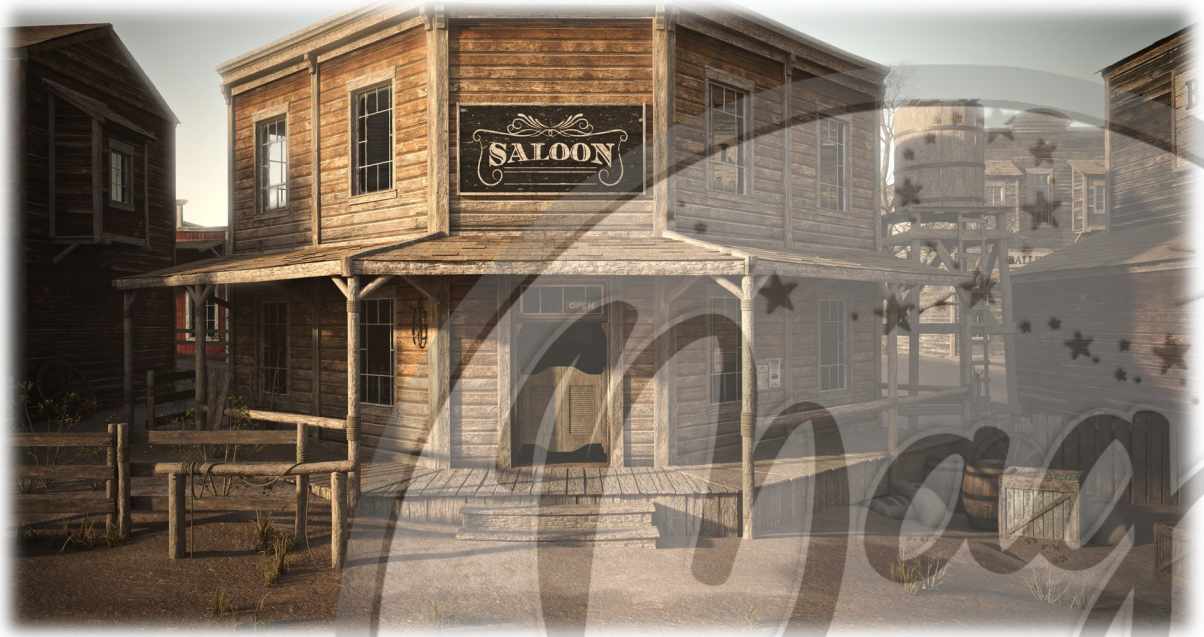
Places can become ghost towns for different reasons. Sometimes settlements are built due to the discovery of a natural resource in an area. For example, when gold was discovered in western United States, people flocked there. They wanted to get rich. They quickly set up towns, known as boomtowns, near the gold to mine it. When the gold was gone, the people moved on. The boomtowns then became ghost towns.

Another cause of ghost towns is changes in routes. When new interstate highways were built, old roads were closed. This action cut off access to smaller towns. The same thing happened when railroads were abandoned or re-directed, or when dams were built. With travel made more difficult, people left these once lively towns.



Natural and man-made disasters can create ghost towns, too. Floods, droughts, fires, and nuclear power plant accidents all affect areas. When it is no longer

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safe to live there or the damage is too great to rebuild, people must find another place to settle. A ghost town is what is left behind. In some cases, dangerous wildlife, such as rattlesnakes, take over what remains of the town.

Some historic ghost towns are now tourist attractions. Visitors can see what life was like when that town was alive and well. Bodie, California is one such site, first described as a ghost town in 1915. It is a gold-mining ghost town that once had 10,000 people living in it. Guests can walk along the empty streets. Over 200 wooden buildings can be viewed. A peek in the windows of structures such as the church, schoolhouse, and barbershop reveal personal belongings that were left behind.

Garnet, Montana is another ghost town you can visit. This town was developed in the 1890s. Red garnets, a type of semi-precious gemstone, were discovered as people searched for gold. In 1905, the town shrank as garnets and gold became harder to find. A fire destroyed most of the town in 1912. Garnet then became a ghost town. About 30 buildings remain today, including a dozen cabins, a store, a saloon, and parts of a hotel. Guests can walk on self-guided trails to tour the ghost town.

Ghost towns are interesting historical sites. They reveal what life was like at one point in time. They also show how fast life can change.

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Ghost Town Profile

Name _____

Choose a ghost town to research. Complete the profile below using facts you find.

Name:	
Former population:	
Town activities and events:	
Turning point (when and why?):	
Current condition of the town:	
Fun fact(s):	

Where in the World?

Mark the country where your ghost town is located.



Provide a description of the ghost town's location. For example, what city or state is the town in?

_____

_____

_____

_____

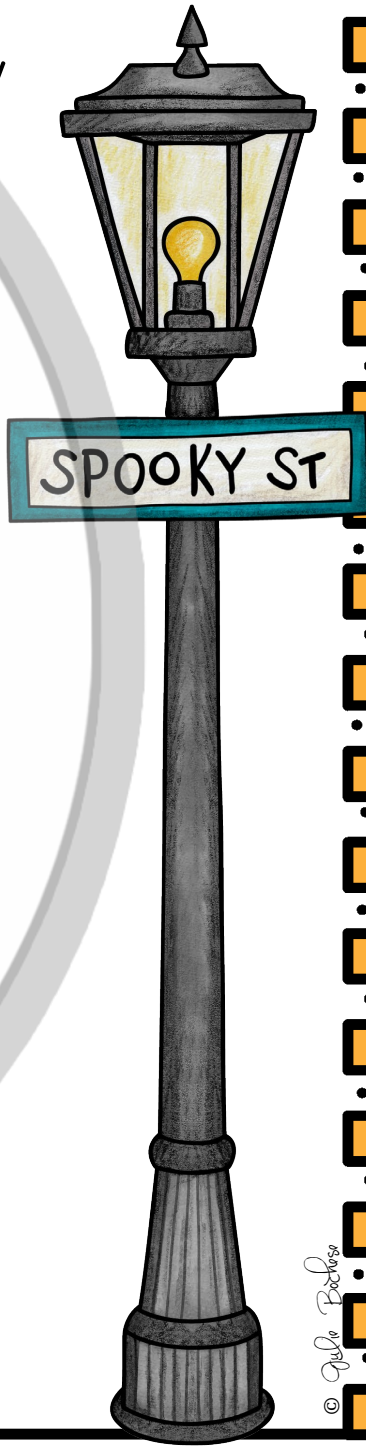
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You Bought a Ghost Town!

Now that you own this deserted piece of property, you are going to turn it into a spooky attraction for others to visit! However, there is some work to be done before your first guest arrives!

Here are your tasks:

- Complete the Ghost Town Attraction Brainstorm organizer
- Create a map of your ghost town to pass out in the Welcome Center
- Purchase decorations for your Welcome Center
- Create a logo for your ghost town
- Create a catchy slogan for your ghost town
- Build a website to promote your ghost town attraction
- Describe your ghost town in writing



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Ghost Town Attraction Brainstorm

Name _____

Complete the organizer below to get your thoughts in order.

Name:	
Former population:	
Town activities and events:	
Turning point (when and why?):	
Current condition of the town:	
Fun fact(s):	

Where in the World?

Mark the country where your ghost town is located.



Provide a description of the ghost town's location. For example, what city or state is the town in?

_____

_____

_____

_____

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Version 1

Decorate Your Welcome Center!

Let's see if you have enough money to purchase the decorations you picked out. Complete the table below and calculate the total cost. Once you determine how much money you have left, you will need to decide how you want to use it.

Decorations	Option(s)	Quantity	Total Cost
Art			
Statue			
Banner			
Other			



Total Cost for Decorations

Next, calculate how much money you have left. How do you plan to use it?

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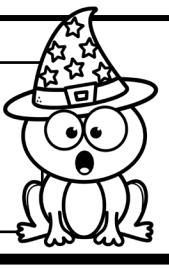
Version 3

Decorate Your Welcome Center!

Let's see if you have enough money to purchase the decorations you picked out. Complete the table below and create an addition sentence to find your total cost.

Banner	Statue	Art	Other
Which banner did you choose? Draw a picture of it.	Which statue did you choose? Draw a picture of it.	Which piece of art did you choose? Draw a picture of it.	What other item did you choose? Draw a picture of it.
How much does the banner cost? $_____	How much does the statue cost? $_____	How much does the artwork cost? $_____	How much did the item cost? $_____

banner		statue		art		other		total cost
$	+	$	+	$	+	$	=	$



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Create Your Ghost Town Logo!

Use the space provided to draw your ghost town's very own logo. Be sure to pay attention to the colors you use as they will help you express the mood of your ghost town. Note: Your logo can be any shape you choose!

- reds = danger or love
- oranges = energy and excitement
- yellows = happiness
- greens = nature
- blues = peace and relaxation
- purples = spooky or love
- greys = sadness
- black = serious and scary

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Create Your Ghost Town Slogan!

Use the space provided to create your own slogan. There are some tips below for you to consider.

- Keep it simple
- Use 8 words or less
- Be creative
- Express the mood of your ghost town
- Make it memorable

Practice space:

My slogan:

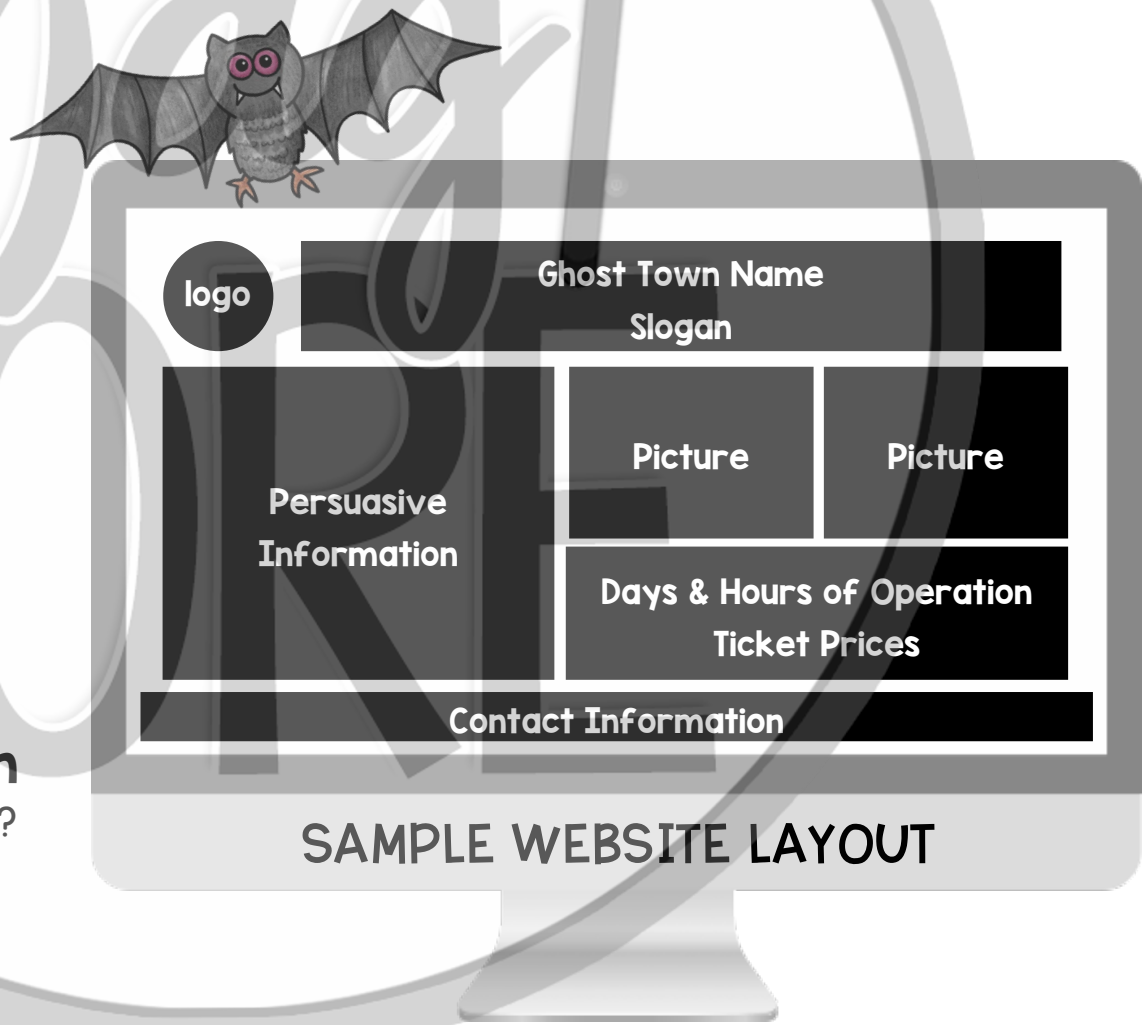
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Build Your Website!

Now that you have your ghost town attraction ready for guests, you need to advertise that is exists. Remember, ghost towns have been deserted for many years, so people need to know you are open for business! Your website should convince people to visit your ghost town. Think about websites you have visited online. What made them interesting? What made you want to buy something or travel somewhere?

Your website must include the following:

- **Logo**
- **Ghost Town Name**
- **Slogan**
- **Pictures & Color**
- **Persuasive Writing**
  Write at least one paragraph about your ghost town that will convince people to visit. What makes your ghost town special or unique?
- **Important Information**
  What days and hours are you open? How much does it cost to visit?
- **Contact Information**
  Where are you located?



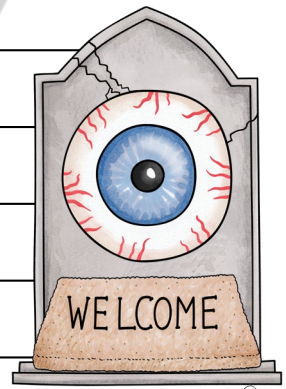
SAMPLE WEBSITE LAYOUT

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Name _____

Write About Your Ghost Town!

Use the space below to describe the ghost town you designed. Describe the features you included on your map and your town's slogan. Try to include as many strong descriptive words as you can!



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Self Reflection

Name _____

Write a reflection of your experience with this project. How did you feel about the challenges and activities? Explain what you found easy to do and any difficulties you had while working on this project. Did you enjoy this activity? Why or why not?



Rate this project.

Circle the statement you most agree with.

I am ready for something harder. | It was just right. | I found this challenging.

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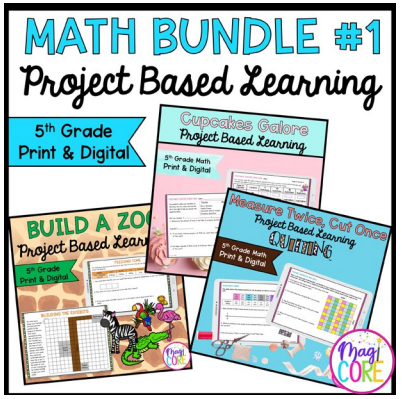
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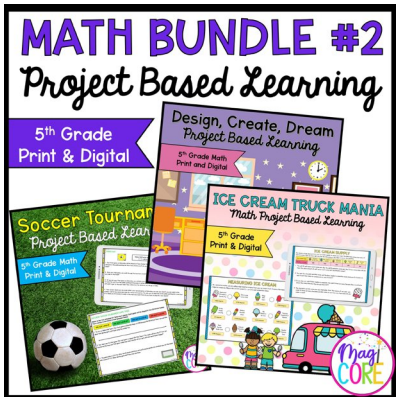
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