

Name: _____

Social Studies 7/8

Date: _____

Social Studies Summer Assignment

Directions: As global citizens, we should actively follow current events. Over the summer, choose **TWO** interesting articles to write about. The articles should be current (from the summer) and from reputable news sources. You can choose articles from the same day or from different times in the summer. It will be easiest to keep this in a Google Document, ready to turn in on the first day of school in September.

For each article:

- Summarize what the article is about
- Explain why the article is interesting to you
- Connect the article to something you've learned in Social Studies
- Include a link to the article

Suggested sources:

- *Scholastic Magazine* magazines.scholastic.com/
- *The New York Times* www.nytimes.com
- *The Wall Street Journal* online.wsj.com
- *Al Jazeera* (based in the Middle East) www.aljazeera.com/

EXAMPLE OF **ONE OF TWO** ARTICLES

Article 1 of 2 "Catalan Vote Seen As Test for Separatists in Europe"

The article I chose for this email is about a current event in Spain. It is about the Catalonian province wanting to become its own separate country. While we were in Barcelona over vacation we heard a lot about this, and I found it intriguing. Here is the link:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/06/world/europe/catalan-vote-seen-as-test-for-separatists-in-europe.html>

The article includes information about the separation, outcomes, pros and cons, and other information about the Catalonian and Basque regions. It is interesting to me because we managed to find a lot of information about it while we were in Spain. Part of why this topic is so interesting is because the vote is this fall and is just recently after the king stepped down. It also reminds me of the Crusades and the Roman Empire. It reminds me of that because countries all over Europe were being taken over and fighting to be separate. It also reminds me of something we learned in fourth grade. It reminds me of when we learned about America trying to become separate from England. I can't believe summer is almost over! See you in the fall.