The Leadership and Legacy of Walt Disney

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Individual Website
Word Count: 495
How I chose my topic

When the NHD theme for 2015 was announced, I brainstormed with my parents to come up with a topic that not only worked, but that I had a connection with, something that mattered to me. Originally, I had wanted to research a women's suffrage leader, but as I really thought about the events in which they took part, while significant, seemed too obvious, too easy, and too straightforward. Then, when my cousins came to visit two weeks after the theme was released, they spoke non-stop about their upcoming trip to Disneyworld. Their obsession with Disney and his creations fascinated me. I had been to Disneyland many times and, of course, fell in love with the classic movies and cartoons. The love of this man and his world coming from my aunt of 43, my oldest cousin at 16, and my youngest cousin of 5, plus my uncle and two other cousins, stemmed my NHD project. As I researched Walt Disney, it became evident he was perfect for my project.

How I conducted my research

A hidden challenge for researching Walt Disney is that there is an extremely large amount of information and sources, and weeding out the truth is the most difficult part. Basic facts became clear as I read old *New York Times* articles and online self-proclaimed ‘Disney Historians’, but hazier events in Disney’s lifetime were harder to find. Photographs and original cartoons proved insightful, however unfactual. Books became my best friend and, with a trip to the public library, I managed to support previously found facts and events. Documentaries and videotaped interviews were particularly helpful in understanding Walt’s feelings towards his company and cartoons. And, in the end, the extra information proved to be profitable.
How I selected my category and created my project

Not doing a website hardly ever crossed my mind, with a brother who pursued a website last year much to his satisfaction; a father in the tech industry, websites have always caught my attention and designing looked fun. As I got further into NHD it became clear I had made the right choice. In order to incorporate multimedia, such as movies, cartoons, songs, and pictures, a website was the best choice. Challenges such as the formatting and uploading media pushed me, but my choice still stands strong. Documentaries seemed to drone on, a poster board couldn’t display a movie, and a paper definitely wasn’t the right choice with the cartoons.

How my project relates to the NHD theme

Walt Disney left behind a legacy as large as his heart, with hundreds of cartoons, movies, music, and TV shows. It is almost impossible to define his legacy. Without him we might not be watching our programs with synchronized sound and technicolor. His apparent leadership began and ran what is now the most known family entertainment company which began thousands of other attempts at rivalries who could barely make a dent on Walt Disney’s legacy.

Word Count: 495
Primary Source Information


*Bambi and Friends.* 1940. *Cuentoscortos.* Web. 22 Jan. 2015. Primary Source. I used this source for a Bambi Screenshot on the 1940’s page, it was taken from the original movie.


Disney, Walt, prod. "1923-1927 Walt Disney - "Alice Comedies" (visual Highlights)." *Adventures of Alice*. Los Angeles, California, n.d. *YouTube*. Web. 05 Feb. 2015. Primary source cartoon. I used this source for an original Alice cartoon, it is on the Home page.

<http://imagineerebirth.blogspot.com/2006/04/walt-disney-talks-his-business.html>. Primary Source. I used this source to find out how Walt Disney viewed his company and wanted to expand or change it. It is on the 1940’s page and the Leadership and Legacy pages.


<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/w/walt_disney.html#Rp8HeX4dDPyUixi9.99>. Primary Source. I used this source for a quote on top of the 1940’s page.


<http://trueclassics.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/felix-and-chaplin.jpg>. Primary Source. I used this source for cartoons before Disney, Felix the Cat. 6 Feb. 2015. <http://trueclassics.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/felix-and-chaplin.jpg>. Primary Source. I used this source to find a Felix the Cat photograph from the original time period, it is on the 1920’s page.

Source. I used this source for basic information on cartoons before Disney, on Home page.


Historical Newspapers. N.d. Big Chalk: NY Times, NY Times. The Film in Review. New York: NY Times, n.d. 21. Print. Primary Source photo, I used this source for a photograph of Peter Pan, it was originally displayed on an article about Disney’s new Peter Pan in the New York Times.


MV9maWxlCnAJdGh1bWIJMTIwMHg5NjAwPg/1811ba1d>. Primary Source Photograph (1950). I used this source for a photograph of the original “Mouseketeers”.


Photograph. I used this source for an image of Walt Disney and construction workers at the site of the new Production company's building.


_Walt Disney Screencaps_. 1940. _FanPop_. Web. 21 Jan. 2015. I used this primary source for a photo of Pinocchio.


Secondary Source Information


Secondary Source Prices and Disney employment salary in the 1930's


<http://imgc.allpostersimages.com/images/P-473-488-90/27/2779/Y6TTD00Z/po
sters/george-silk-movie-producer-walt-disney-holding-four-oscar-awards-he-won.jpg>. Secondary Source Photograph I used this source for a photograph of Walt Disney with four of his Oscars on the leadership page.


Secondary Source. I used this source for a modern day cartoon photograph/screensaver on the “Cartoons After Walt” on the Legacy page.


<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/a/6a00d8341c630a53ef014e8b2ca5f1970d-pi>. Secondary Source photograph. I used this source for a secondary source photograph of the CalArts exterior building on the Legacy page.


Sound is used today in Disney productions, and how the Walt Disney Company honors Walt Disney with a live orchestra.


Secondary Source. I used this source for a photograph of Donald Duck on the 1930’s page.


<http://trueclassics.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/felix-and-chaplin.jpg>. Primary Source. I used this source for cartoons before Disney, Felix the Cat.


Flowerstrees.jpg. Secondary Source Photograph. I used this source for a photo of the original Flowers and Trees movie poster on the 1930’s page.


Source Photograph. I used this photograph as the second Koko the Clown photograph in the Cartoon Before Disney section of the 1920’s page.

<http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0CCIQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Facademics.smcvt.edu%2Ftwhiteford%2FM ath%2FENotebooks%2FNatalie%2520Larose.ppt&ei=tCQrVMm2HMXdoATGtYG0Aw&usg=AFQjCNF_2nupeQ_Wg0HR8wsjnETypSPQpg&bvm=bv.764775 89,d.cGU>. I used this secondary source to find out how many guests journey to Disney parks annually, I used this information to check my original source.


page to illustrate how Mickey Mouse expanded to merchandise and how that merchandise is still being produced and collected today.


<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000370/bio>. Secondary Source. I used this source to learn about Synchronized sound and Technicolor Conspiracy theories. They did not end up in my final project.

Pogni, Dean. "Award-Winning Walt." Web log post. *Award-Winning Walt*. The Walt Disney Family Museum, 15 Feb. 2012. Web. 02 Feb. 2015. Secondary Source article, I used this source for Walt Disney's awards (Golden Globes, Oscars, etc.) and a quote on how significant the amount of awards he has won is.


Three Original Dan MacManus Donald Duck Drawings. N.d. Online. ICollector.com

Online Auctions Upcoming Auctions. Web. 06 Feb. 2015.


<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000370/awards>. Secondary Source. I used this source to double-check awards and nominations and for Walt Disney's Emmys.


Wagner, Joshua, Katherine Greene, Richard Greene, and Jean-Pierre Isbouts. "Walt: The Man Behind The Myth." *Walt: The Man Behind The Myth.* Dir. Jean-Pierre Isbouts. Prod. Cathie Labrador. Pantheon Productions, Walt Disney Family Foundation, San Francisco, California, 16 Sept. 2001. Television. I used this mainly as a secondary source, but some primary source some information is from when Walt was alive and people he worked with and others are from modern
day. The final information in my project is Secondary source, however the primary sources in this movie were used to backup previously known information about Walt Disney and his life. General life and animation of Walt Disney.


<http://media.liveauctiongroup.net%2Fi%2F9646%2F10498902_1.jpg>. I used this secondary source for a photograph of Disney's congressional medal on the Legacy page.


"Walt Disney: Long Biography." *Walt Disney: Long Biography*. Just Disney, n.d. Web. 26 Sept. 2014. I used this secondary source to find about early background information on Walt Disney, it is on the Home page.


<http://mlb.mlb.com/assets/images/8/9/0/98987890/MickeyMouse_8v2h7teh.jpg>. I used this secondary source for a movie poster on the 1930's page.


<http://216.120.244.54/~peeweec/4color624.jpg>. I used this secondary source for a slide show photo on the Home page.


<http://www.biography.com/people/walt-disney-9275533>. I used this secondary source to get birth and death dates of Walt Disney.

"Who Owns What on Television?" Neatorama. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Nov. 2014. I used this secondary source to see how many t.v. programs the Walt Disney Company owns on the Legacy page.


<http://www.travelandleisure.com/articles/worlds-most-visited-tourist-attractions/10>. I used this secondary source for the number of tourists in Walt Disney parks annually.


Secondary Tool, I used to download music.