**Treaty of Portsmouth: Peace Through Compromise**

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We chose to do our National History Day project on the Treaty of Portsmouth because we have learned about World War I in history and social studies in classes in the past. During those discussions the Russo-Japanese War was mentioned, and we wanted to learn more about it**.** We did not know much about the war at first, but we were interested in learning more. Since the theme of National History Day for 2017 was Conflict and Compromise, we decided to make the topic of our project on the treaty that ended the war, The Treaty of Portsmouth.

Our research was conducted completely at home over the course of two months. We split the work in half between us and looked over each other’s research. We researched online websites. We confirmed the credibility of those websites in several ways. For example, we relied on websites that used “.org” and “.gov,” because those sources tend to be from official organizations (such as official government websites). Also, we used websites that include original source materials, such as those that have the original photographs, the text of the Treaty, documentation, and other information where the source of the documents can be confirmed.

We started our research by looking up basic facts about the treaty first to get a better understanding of the timeline of the treaty and the Russo-Japanese War. We then researched about the Russo-Japanese War. We also found direct quotes from President Theodore Roosevelt, who organized the meeting of Russia and Japan to negotiate peace. Although we did not include these quotes, they were helpful because they provided insight into the United States’ motivations to bring about peace between Japan and Russia.

While planning out our website, we sought out pictures from that time. We felt that the pictures would give us more insight as to what the war was like and how the treaty was signed. We looked for pictures that were from the war and found many that were from both sides.

The reason we chose to do a website is because it was a fun way to convey the information we learned from our project. We knew from previous experiences that it would be straightforward and enjoyable to use Weebly to create our website. Weebly provides easy-to-use tools in making the website interactive and including all of our information in an organized way. The website helped us link together what we learned about the Treaty of Portsmouth and the theme of Conflict and Compromise.