English First Peoples- Project: Researching the Background to Monkey Beach by Eden Robinson and topics of interest

In this project will be researching a topic related to the novel Monkey Beach by Eden Robinson or a topic of interest related to this course.  These topics will all provide some background information to help us when we read the novel and when we go through other literature in this class.    After gathering your research, you will be creating an information handout to inform the rest of the class about the key elements of your assigned topic.

Your handout will need to include the important information you have been asked to research as well as visuals (diagrams/maps/pictures etc) to help us learn the topic. It must be easy to read and understand. It must be put in your own words, not just copied and pasted. You must include a list of the sources you got your information from on your handout.

You will be marked on the content of the assignment (how well you covered the important information), your use of visuals to teach the information (how well did your visuals help other students learn the information you presented in your handout), your summary of the information (putting information in your own words and in point form {-shouldn’t just be copying and pasting the information directly from your sources}), and how easy it was for other students to gather information from your information package (was it clear and easy to understand). This evaluation will be done by the teacher.   As well, you will be doing a self-assessment of your work in these same categories.

The possible topics are listed below.  The listed information to research is not exhaustive and is meant only as a starting point.   You may find additional important or interesting information you want to include.

Possible topics for each group to explore are:  (think- who, what, where, when, why, how) ( max-2 people per topic)

* Geography of the area—Kitamaat, Kitimat, Northern Coast of British Columbia, Monkey beach location
  + Location, topography, climate, wildlife, economy (traditional and modern) other relevant information etc.
* Haisla people (general)
  + brief history, traditional territory, cultural background/traditions, spiritual beliefs, language, connection to the land etc.
* Northwest coast Indigenous harvesting from the ocean
  + Traditional and Modern Harvesting from the ocean-(plants/animals/marine life) What did they harvest? When did they harvest? Why was this important? What methods did they use? How has this changed in modern times? What are some threats to the ocean population of food in modern times?
* Northwest coast Indigenous harvesting from rivers
  + Traditional and Modern Harvesting from the rivers
    - Oolichan harvest-What are oolichans, making grease (process) , catching/harvesting the fish, importance to first nations cultures, effects of resource industry on oolichan harvest (pollution, destruction of habitat etc) How has this changed in modern times?
    - Other fish/plants- What else did they harvest from the rivers? When was this done? What methods did they use? How has this changed in modern times?
* Northwest coast traditional Indigenous harvesting from the land
  + Traditional harvesting of foods (plants/animals) –what types of foods, when did they harvest, importance to people, methods of harvesting- How has this changed in modern times?
* Northwest coast medicinal uses of plants
  + Indigenous Medicinal uses of plants- What were the different types of plants used for medicine? What were they used for? How were they harvested? How were they made? How has this changed in modern times?
* Sasquatch story in British Columbia
  + What are they? Traditional stories? Background information? Cultural beliefs, areas where people believe they are located, other first nations names, other relevant information, where did the name come from?
* American Indian Movement history
  + What was it? Who was involved? Why is it important? How did it become a movement? History of the movement? What was its purpose?
* Eden Robinson (author)
  + Who is she? Where does she live? What is her background(birth, parents, siblings, interests, hobbies, etc) –tell us about her and her life
* Aboriginal veterans and racism
  + How many aboriginal veterans are there? Are they treated the same as non-aboriginal veterans? Has this always been the case? (historically vs now) What problems did they face? What about now? What issues are there?
* Residential schools (general)
  + What were they? What was their purpose? How many were there? Where were they? When did they start? When did they end? What happened at these schools? Why is it important to know about them?
* Residential schools (effects)
  + Effects of residential school system on people now-What are the effects? (alcohol/drug/sexual/physical/mental abuse etc) How did residential school system lead to these problems? How many people are affected and in what ways? What is being done now to help people who went to residential school? What is being done to make up for the losses of culture/language for survivors and their families?
* Department of Indian Affairs (now called Indigenous and Northern Affairs)
  + What is this department? What types of things does it do? What is its purpose? How does it affect indigenous peoples in Canada? What does it do for Indigenous peoples in Canada? How is it related to the Indian Act?
* Indian act
  + What is the Indian Act? When did it come into affect? What does it do? What are some key things people should know about the Indian Act? How does the Indian act affect first nations, metis and Inuit peoples in Canada?
* Issues/problems facing first nations/indigenous youth in Canada today
  + What are the big issues? What are the statistics? Why are these issues? What is being done about it? What needs to be done? How does this affect first nations youth?
* Substance Abuse & Addiction –alcohol, drugs, smoking
  + What is substance abuse? Why do people abuse substances? What are the symptoms? What effects does this abuse have on people’s health and life? How do people get addicted? How do people get help?
* Indigenous rights and title
  + What is it? How do they figure this out? What does it mean to have indigenous rights and title? How does indigenous rights and title affect First nations, Inuit and Metis people in Canada? What rights and responsibilities does this give them?
* Anti-racism
  + What is it? What are important terms to know such as white privilege, white fragility? What are the zones of growth and learning?
* Truth and reconciliation
  + What is it? How did it come about? What was its purpose? Who was involved? What were the results? What are the calls to action? How does this affect indigenous and non-indigenous peoples?
* Adaawx/Oral Tradition
  + What are they? What is their purpose? Why are they important to first nations peoples? What are the protocols for sharing adaawx? Who owns an adaawx? Who can share it?

You will have 2 days with the computers to complete this assignment. They are due on Wednesday May 11.