**Shakespeare and *Macbeth* WebQuest**

Name:

Directions: This activity is designed to give you a crash course in the world of Shakespeare and his famous tragedy, *Macbeth.* You will be better prepared to enjoy the play after this activity! Provide complete sentences and respond in your own words. Search the internet to find answer to the questions. **Copy and paste the link where you found your information at the bottom of your answer—no Wikipedia!** For some questions, you are given the website to use, so you don’t need to provide it.

Step One: Getting to Know William Shakespeare: Consult various websites for information on Shakespeare, the man, the playwright.

1. When and where was Shakespeare born? What are considered the three stages of Shakespeare’s life?

2. When did Shakespeare start writing plays? How long did his career last?

3. What personal tragedy did Shakespeare endure as a parent? Explain.

4. How many plays did Shakespeare write in his time?

5. What are some unique characteristics of the play *Macbeth* when compared with his other plays?

Step Two: Ideas within *Macbeth:* Your thoughts—no research necessary.

1. Have you ever had a supernatural experience? Explain what happened. If not, do you know someone who has? Do you believe in it? Why or why not?

2. If someone offered you a reading of your future, would you do it? Why or why not?

3. What is your definition of success? How do you judge whether people are successful?

4. What is ambition to you? Describe someone you know who is ambitious.

5. Is murder ever justifiable? Why or why not?

6. Which friend or family member has the most influence over you? How do you know this?

7. Describe a time when you did something wrong at the suggestion of someone else.

Step Three: The Historical Story of Macbeth: Consult this website **and others** to find the following information: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/macbeth.shtml>

1. How did Macbeth gain the throne?

2. What was his rule like?

3. How did Macbeth die?

4. Who is King James I of England? Where is he from and who was he before he became King of England?

5. What does James have to do with *Macbeth*? Why did Shakespeare want *Macbeth* to appeal to him? How did Macbeth appeal to James?

Step Four: The Witches: Consult various websites for information on the witches in *Macbeth*.

1. What is the mission of the witches in Macbeth?

2. Who are the familiars and how do they help the witches in Macbeth?

3. Who is Hecate? What is her origin in mythology?

Step Five: Getting a Vision of Scotland:

**Glamis Castle** (pronounced glams) is a classic Scottish landmark. Visit this site and learn about the castle, look at the pictures, and get a feel for it then answer the following questions: <http://www.glamis-castle.co.uk/about-the-castle.cfm>

1. Who does the castle belong to, and how long has it been in existence?

2. What connection does this castle have with the current Royal Family in England?

**Cawdor Castle** is another classic Scottish landmark. Go to this website: <http://www.cawdorcastle.com/tour/castle.cfm> then use the menu on the side and click on “A Living Home.” Now you’ll see an overview of the castle. Click on one of the links to rooms in the castle and take a look around. Find the following information:

1. What did you learn about the thorn tree?

2. What did you learn about the Old Kitchen? What’s interesting to you about it?

3. Why was it not possible for *Macbeth* to not actually have been set in the historic Cawdor Castle (see Shakespeare and Macbeth Connection)?