ACTIVITY OUTLINE

Objective: Students will have an opportunity to research the trial of Galileo and present their own mock trial of his case to better understand historical events from multiple perspectives.

DIRECTIONS

1. Students will be divided into three groups: the prosecution, the defense, and the jury. Mr. King will act as judge or magistrate.

2. In groups, you should visit a set list of Web sites to read about Galileo and his trial. A list of websites can be found below.

3. You will be assigned various roles within the groups, such as lawyers or particular witnesses. One student from the defense group will take on the role of Galileo.

4. You then should compile your research and prepare for the trial. This should include writing opening statements and developing a list of questions for "friendly" witnesses (called a direct examination) and a list of questions for "hostile" witnesses (called a cross examination).

5. The trial will begin with delivery of the opening statements on both sides. It should proceed with the direct and cross-examination of prosecution witnesses, then the direct and cross-examination of the defense witnesses; presentation of closing statements; jury deliberations, and finally the announcement of a verdict.

6. All material for the trial, opening statements, questions, research information, and closing statements must be compiled in an orderly fashion. This information will be made available to the judge, to the defense team, and to the prosecution team at least two days prior to the trial date. The information presented in the trial will be made available to the jury and the judge at the conclusion of the trial prior to judgment.

7. The trial will be scheduled for two days.

   The first day will be the reading of the charges, opening statements by both prosecution and defense and the beginning of the prosecution phase.

   The second day will be the conclusion of the prosecution phase (if needed), the defense phase and closing arguments. The jury will then receive their instructions and deliberate prior to rendering a verdict.
Scenario

In 1633 Galileo is charged with heresy by the Holy Inquisition in Rome. Specifically, he is accused of teaching the Heliocentric System, or that the planets revolve about the sun.

"1. The proposition that the sun is in the center of the world and immovable from its place is absurd, philosophically false, and formally heretical; because it is expressly contrary to Holy Scriptures.
2. The proposition that the earth is not the center of the world, nor immovable, but that it moves, and also with a diurnal action, is also absurd, philosophically false, and, theologically considered, at least erroneous in faith."

He was forbidden to teach this idea as the truth, yet he published a book, the *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems*, which does, in fact, teach this heretical idea as the truth. Therefore, Galileo has to travel to Rome to face trial for challenging the holy doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church.

Your responsibilities:

**Prosecution Team:** you will need to find out information on each of the witnesses. You will need to formulate questions for each witness. You will need to be able to ask follow-up questions. You must prepare an opening statement describing why Galileo is guilty of the crimes for which he is accused. You must prepare a closing statement. Divide tasks up between members of the team.

**Defense Team:** you will need to find out information on each of the witnesses. You will need to formulate questions for each witness. You will need to be able to ask follow-up questions. You must prepare an opening statement describing why Galileo is innocent of the crimes for which he is accused. You must prepare a closing statement. Divide tasks up between members of the team.

**Jury members:** You must listen, take notes and pay close attention to the details presented to you during the course of the trial. You will have to provide the court with a written response as to why you chose the verdict you did. In preparation for the trial you must be familiar with the Roman Inquisition, the Scientific Revolution, and the Reformation.

**Characters:** you will need to research background information (such as letters) on your individual. Areas to cover will be where you are from, family background, occupation, relationship with Galileo, political viewpoint and any other pertinent information. You will need to be able to answer any questions that relate to these areas (YOU NEED TO KNOW YOURSELF BETTER THAN THE PROSECUTION OR DEFENSE KNOWS YOU).
Characters

Defense
1. Galileo Galilei
2. Maria Celeste, Galileo's daughter
3. Benedetto Castelli, friend
4. Giovanni Ciampoli, friend
see me if you wish to add to this list

Prosecution
1. Father Tommaso Caccini
2. Cardinal Roberto Bellarmin (Robert Bellarmine)
3. Maffeo Berberini, Pope Urban VIII
4. Cardinal Francesco Barberini
see me if you wish to add to this list

Trial Format

Magistrate reads the Charge

Prosecution Opening Statement
Defense Opening

Prosecution first witness (Direct Examination)
Defense (Cross Examination)
Prosecution second witness (Direct Examination)
Defense (Cross Examination)
Continue until all Prosecution witnesses are called; Prosecution rests its case.

Defense first witness (Direct Examination)
Prosecution (Cross Examination)
Defense second witness (Direct Examination)
Prosecution (Cross Examination)
Continue until all Defense witnesses are called; Defense rests.

Prosecution Closing Statement
Defense Closing

Jury Deliberations: verdict
Websites

http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/FTrials/galileo/galileo.html (best)
http://hsci.ou.edu/exhibits/exhibit.php?exbgrp=1&exbid=16&exbpg=1 (overview)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galileo_affair#The_Trial
http://galileo.rice.edu/ (general background)
http://www.catholicleague.org/research/galileo.html (Catholic perspective)
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook09.html (primary sources like letters)

please share any other useful sites or books