Geologic Time Project

You work for an advertising agency. Your company has just won a contract with an unusual client. Most travel agencies sell vacations in space -- that is, you move from one place to another, spend some time there and then come home. Your client is different because they sell vacations in time -- vacationers stay in the same space but travel back in time, enjoy (hopefully) some space there and then come home.

**The Task**

Your job is to develop a commercial (a brief PowerPoint presentation) showing people what their vacation destination will entail. Choose a geologic era. Your commercial must include information that answers the following questions:

- What is the time range?
- What era is that part of? (When is the vacationer going?)
- What era comes before and after yours?
- What makes your era unique (How will they know they are there?)
- What major events in geologic history occurred during this era? (What are the major attractions of the time?)
- Describe the animal life or dominant life forms during this era? Include at least 3 animals/life forms in your description. (What is the wildlife like? Is the visitor likely to eat or be eaten?)
- Describe the plant life during this period? Include at least 2 plants in your description (Any vegetarian meals on the menu?)
- What was the climate like? (What should the traveler pack?)

**Jobs**

There are four "jobs" each group member should choose a job that interests him or her:

1) **Botanist:** This person will identify the major plant/tree life that existed during the Geologic Era and provide information on the plant life for the traveler
2) **Life Detector:** This person will identify the names of the dominant life forms that existed during the Geologic Era. This person will provide information to the traveler about what animals/life forms they may see, what they should avoid, etc.
3) **Event Planner:** This person will identify the major geologic events that have occurred during the Geologic Era. This person should provide the traveler with the information of the major attractions of the time.
4) **Climatologist:** This person will identify the major climate of the Geologic Era and what the atmosphere was like. Make sure the visitor knows what clothes to pack.

**Resources** (Use the links below and the links of the school website to get your information. Your book and other classroom reference material will be useful too. Be sure to document all sources! Don’t lose points on this.)
- The Geologic Time Machine (www.umcp.berkeley.edu/help/timeform.html)
- links the periods to good descriptions and graphics for each time period.
- US Geological Survey's The Geologic Time Scale
  (vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/Glossary/geo_time_scale.html) gives brief descriptions of each period.
- Artist Douglas Henderson (gallery.in-tch.com/~earthhistory/) has created some illustrations of various geologic time periods.
- Life Through Geologic Time: A Pictorial History of Life on Earth
  (seaborg.nmu.edu/earth/Life.html) includes summary information about time periods as well as images. This site also includes information about major impact craters (meteors) on Earth during each period.
- The Paleomap Project (www.scotese.com/Default.htm) has some great maps (of course) as well as some good information.
- The Geologic Timescale (www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/Geologictime.html) offers a good chart and details about each time period.
- If your time period includes dinosaurs, dinosauria.com may be for you.
- Check for extinctions during your time period at Minor Extinctions in Earth History
  (hannover.park.org/Canada/Museum/extinction/minorextin.html).
- The Five Worst Extinctions in Earth's History at space.com is another extinction source.
  Close the pop-up windows as they appear.

The Process

1. Use the resources listed above to research your time period.
2. Answer the questions below as completely as possible in the time you have available.
3. Use the information you have gathered to make a PowerPoint presentation
4. Your final product must answer all the questions asked in the task section above.
5. Your PowerPoint must be at least at least 6 slides in length
6. The presentation must include pictures appropriate for your time period. Check out www.yahoo.com and click on images
7. Be careful of the use of color and font. You will be graded on ease of reading your slides.
8. Last slide must list your resources in correct format (Use MLA Guide or the Write Source)
Information to Find During the Research Phase

1. What is the actual time period you are researching?
   
   Time Era: _______________________________
   
   Time Range: ___________________________ to ___________________________
   
   Previous Geologic era: _________________________________
   
   Following Geologic era: _________________________________

2. Describe the major climate during your time era. Climate mainly includes average temperatures and amount of precipitation, but could also include the presence (or absence of seasons), ice ages, etc.

3. Describe some of the main geologic events occurring during this geologic period. This would include formation of mountains, opening of oceans, crunching continents, volcanic activity, major deposition of sediments, major structures eroded, etc.

4. Describe the position of the continents during this period. Where was our region with respect to the equator?

5. What types of animals lived during this geologic era?

6. What are the major types of plants that lived during your era?
Check and be sure you have covered all evaluation points

Remember this is a travel commercial - be creative

Commercial format/Creativity
Appropriate number of slides (minimum 8)
Your time period is
The era and span of your period is listed
Names of at least 3 animals/life forms that lived during the period
Names of at least 2 types of plants
Major Climate is described
Major events that occurred during your period
Illustrations on each slide with citations
Appropriate use of color and fonts:
Slides are readable
At least 3 Resources in correct format (separate slide)