**Mark Twain: Life and Views on Slavery and Relationship with Abolitionists**

Investigation Designer: Elizabeth Chouinard

Grade Level: 7

Time Required: 3-4 weeks

Investigation Focus: Mark Twain’s life, writing style and his relationship with slavery and the abolitionists of the time in which he lived and worked.

State Learning Standards: Reading Standards: #s 1, 2, 3, 6, and MA.8A

(or Common Core Standard) Writing Standards: #s 1, 2, MA.3A, 4, 5, 7, and 8

Language Standards: #s 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6

Speaking and Listening Standards: #s 1, 3, 4, and 6

Learning Outcomes:

* The students will be able to understand and evaluate the works of Mark Twain.
* The students will understand how Twain’s work reflected his life views on slavery.
* The students will understand the relationship Twain had with abolitionists.

Assessment: Final assessment will be an analysis of Mark Twain which will comment on his views of:

* slavery
* The ‘Guilded’ Age
* The abolitionist movement
* family

Materials List: Literature by Twain

Biographical material

Autobiographical material

Primary Source document(s) needed: Twain’s speeches and letters

Engaging Experience:

* Virtual tour of the Twain Mansion online
* Acting out some scenes from his works

Guiding Question(s):

* What do you see beyond the words of Twain’s works?
* How do his views of life influence the work he produced?
* What makes his work so popular today?

Presenting Finding and Draw Conclusions:

* After reading his work, students will be able to understand, in part, what type of person Mark Twain truly was, as a writer, husband, father and citizen.

What enduring understanding will students have?

* The students will understand the impact the works of Mark Twain had on the literary world as well as the world in which he lived and up to the present.