

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet:  
Religious Leader & Refugee

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National History Day  
Website

We chose this project because originally we were both interested in the selection process of the Dalai Lama. We then realized that it would be a good idea to work together and do our National History Day project on the 14th Dalai Lama.

To ensure a productive use of our time, an outline of the project was split into two halves, based on the interests (cultural or more political) of the two partners. Each partner would focus on researching for their section of the project. In the beginning, when general background information was needed, it would be researched and then sorted into the appropriate tab for the website. This was especially effective with books. We would check out stacks of books from local libraries and skim through them for crucial ideas and quotes and later sort them into the website tabs. Later, more narrowed research was conducted with a specific website section in mind. Online notecards were compiled when taking quotes and ideas from databases and websites. It was often difficult to find computers that would allow the website to function. Many trips to different libraries and using multiple devices was necessary to submit for the class deadlines.

Our most helpful sources were the Dalai Lama's official website and photos from the Telegraph. The Dalai Lama's official website provided us with his viewpoints and opinions on different topics as well as information on his life including interviews and excerpts from his books. The Telegraph website contained many photos of the Dalai Lama throughout his life. We used these photos throughout our website and they make it look much more appealing.

The presentation category of a website, was chosen for its accessibility. We had never personally created a website before, and believed it would be a time saver if we could each work at our home computers as opposed to having to meet very often to physically build a museum exhibit. The project was created by choosing a basic website theme and incorporating the yellows and reds on the Dalai Lama's robes into the site. We assigned the same sections from the project outline to the tabs on the website. It was fairly easy to learn how to configure text and photos on the website. We met at the library several times for research, and to plan out deadlines for when to finish phrasing and pulling text and photos for each tab.

The Fourteenth Dalai Lama of Tibet is both a very current figure in today's political and religious news and in the changes regarding human rights in the twentieth century. His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso is a great example of a modern day political leader that has made enormous strides protecting and advancing most specifically the rights of the Tibetans, as China constantly tries to control every aspect of Tibetan life. The website focuses on the Fourteenth Lama's work pre-1990, to depict his incredible impact even before technology's advancements in society.