

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____
UNIT 4: History, Literature, and the Mass Media

Web Quest on the Congo

Directions: Select one of the research problems below and solve it using both library and internet research tools. Write a 500-word research report describing what you learned.

- Read four reviews of *The Poisonwood Bible*, Barbara Kingsolver's bestselling book about a fictional family with four daughters living in the Congo during the 1960s. What did reviewers like about the book? What did they dislike?
- Read what Mark Twain wrote about King Leopold. What was Twain's approach in describing the situation in that country? Research how Twain first learned about the problems in the Congo.
- Find out about the role of the U.S. government and the CIA in overthrowing the democratically elected leader of the Congo, Patrice Lumumba in the 1960s. Why were Western nations afraid of Lumumba? How did this coup affect the overall health of the Congo as a new independent nation?
- Read four reviews of *Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad's powerful novel about the search for an ivory trader on the Congo River who must be relieved of his post. What did reviewers like about the novel? Why has it been called the greatest short novel in the English language?
- Read about the genocide which occurred in the neighboring country of Rwanda in 1994 and 1995. Rwanda, a country bordering Democratic Republic of Congo began a programmatic effort to eliminate everybody who was a Tutsi, an ethnic minority. In just 100 days, an estimated 800,000 people were killed. What was the response of Western nations? How was the killing finally stopped?