**Honors U.S. History**

**“The Brooklyn Bridge”**

**Mr. Fernandez**

Answer the following questions as you view the documentary:

**Introduction:**

1. Even if you’ve never studied engineering or aesthetics, what does everyone appreciate about the Brooklyn Bridge?
2. When Neil Armstrong landed on the moon, what did one New York woman say concerning America’s accomplishment that day?

**Part One: Building the Bridge**

1. Who was John Roebling?
2. What ran down the center of the bridge above roadway?
3. What was the “new metal of a new age?”
4. How many years did it take to build the Brooklyn Bridge?
5. Name two other events taking place in America as the bridge was being built.
6. “This structure will forever testify to the energy, enterprise, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to that community which shall secure its erection.” John Roebling
7. What type of community was Sacksenburg, PA?
8. What did Roebling produce in a small shed behind his house that made him rich?

**Early Bridges**

1. What was the most striking characteristic of a Roebling bridge?
2. Who was to become his father’s favorite assistant? What was the assistant’s work experience?
3. Which two cities does the bridge connect?
4. How much money did the council appropriate to begin construction on the bridge?
5. What was hydropathy?
6. How old was Washington Roebling when his father died of lockjaw?
7. What is a caisson?
8. Why did Washington Roebling include such detailed drawings in his architectural plans?
9. Describe the work at the base of the caissons.
10. What were the symptoms of “Caisson Disease?”
11. How deep would the New York tower caisson have to descend below water level?
12. What sickness confined Washington Roebling to bed?
13. What was his most difficult decision concerning the NY tower?
14. “Everything possible is done by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Washington Roebling
15. Who was killed out West at the Battle of Little Bighorn on June 15, 1876?
16. What were to be located 900 feet inland on both shores of the bridge?

**Politics**

1. Who was New York’s “Boss” of Tammany Hall in 1871?
2. What cast a shadow of doubt over all public works projects in the late 19th century?
3. Each finished cable would contain how many steel wires?
4. Who made the steel cables for the Brooklyn Bridge?
5. What happened on Thanksgiving of 1877? Explain the significance of this event.
6. What remained to be built in 1879?
7. Who was the perfect scapegoat for the bridge’s possible failure?
8. Who was the first passenger over the Brooklyn Bridge in May of 1883?
9. Who was president of the United States when the bridge was opened?
10. “Lo soul, see not thou God’s vision from the first? The earth be spanned, connected by network. The lands be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ together.” Walt Whitman

**Part Two:**

1. Write two paragraphs explaining the significance of the Brooklyn Bridge in American history… take notes as you view this section… feel free to quote some of the historians interviewed.