Transcendentalism Scavenger Hunt

**"Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day."-Ralph Waldo Emerson**

**Step one: Gain a basic understanding of Transcendentalism.**

<http://www.answers.com/topic/transcendentalism>

1. What is Transcendentalism?
2. What authors are associated with this movement?
3. What century did this movement take place in?

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/ihas/icon/transcend.html>

1. The Transcendentalists stood at the heart of The American Renaissance-- the flowering of our nation's thought in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the period roughly designated from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. What area of the U.S. did this movement begin in?
3. Emerson attempted to define the philosophy in simple terms as "What is popularly called Transcendentalism among us, is Idealism; Idealism as it appears in 1842." But it is much larger and more complex than that. How is it described further along in this paragraph?

<http://www.vcu.edu/engweb/transcendentalism/ideas/club.html>

1. What was the Transcendentalist club?
2. How/why/where did it develop?
3. How difficult was it to become a member of this club?
4. Who called the first-ever meeting of this club?

**Step two: Explore several figures from the Transcendentalist movement.**

**Write 3 to 4 sentences in regards to what you learned about each author.**

Ralph Waldo Emerson: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/ihas/poet/emerson.html>

Henry David Thoreau: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/ihas/poet/thoreau.html>

**Step 3: Reflection Questions Search the Web**

1. What were the common themes associated with Transcendentalist literature?
2. What was the movement in reaction to?
3. Which of Emerson’s writings is reputed to be the symbol piece of Transcendentalism?
4. What was the life span of the Transcendentalist movement?
5. What role did literature play during the movement?
6. Why did nature hold a great significance to the writers of Transcendentalism?

**Step4: Reflect on the Moves/Music Presented**

1. Describe how each of the movie clips represent the transcendentalist movement?

a. Friends <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HuqNdQJSTY>

b .Portlandia <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErRHJlE4PGI>

C. Ted Talks <http://www.ted.com/talks/graham_hill_less_stuff_more_happiness?language=en>

2. Describe how each of these song lyrics represent the self-reliance and nature aspects of the transcendental movement?

A. Franks Sinatra “ I did it my Way”

B. Bob Marley “ Get Up Standup”

C. Bon Jovi “It’s my Life”

D. Steve Miller Band “Fly like an Eagle”

**Step 5 Explore Modern Day Transcendentalist Identify 2 people from the list to research**

Find 5 Facts on each person and find what made them fit into transcendentalism

1.

2.