



Instructions:

In your group, research one of the following Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals: *Carousel*, *The Sound of Music*, *Flower Drum Song*, *South Pacific*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, or *The King and I*. You may use Web resources, print media, and where possible, video and/or audio media.

Your research must address the following issues:

- What is the date of the original production?
- Develop a brief assessment of the cultural tone prevailing in America during the decade in which your assigned musical opened on Broadway. Include references to any major historical event that has contributed to the cultural tone of the decade (war; cold war; post-war attitudes; change in economic, political climate, etc.).
- What was the original source of the book of your assigned musical? A novel? A film? A play? A legendary figure? Record the title or name of the source.
- What is the basic setting (exposition) of your assigned musical (geographical location; social/political climate, prevailing cultural manners and mores)?
- What is the central tension of the "plot" of your assigned musical? Between key characters? Cultural attitudes? Social alignments? Political implications? Psychological or emotional dilemmas of the main characters? Explain.
- What "fundamental things in life" prevail in your assigned musical? How, in your perception, are they most forcibly presented? Through choreography? Music score? Song lyrics? Script? All of the above? Explain.
- How does your assigned musical compare with other musicals in your experience? With what you know of early 20th century musicals?