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Arkansas Regional History Day Competition

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Earlier this semester, about thirty young scholars participated in the annual Arkansas History Day regional competition. They competed in group historical poster presentations, website and documentary creation, and historical research paper writing. These students presented projects on a wide array of topics, including, but not limited to, the Mexican-American War, the history of women's dress, racial equality in schools, and the Chernobyl incident. Each student, or group of students, had the opportunity to present their work before a panel of judges, who asked them questions about their scholarship and their favorite parts of getting to work on their topic.

While the day gave the students a time to show off their hard work, they also got to have some fun. As they waited to give their presentations and for their classmates to finish theirs, the children got to play games and spend time relaxing with each other. After lunch, they were each presented with goodie bags containing a historical fiction book and some other fun trinkets. Then it was time to present the awards and announce those projects that would be moving on to the state competition. Many of the students received recognition for their outstanding scholarship.

Overall, the day was an amazing success. Dr. David Adams, the faculty member in charge of the event, did a great job encouraging the students and fostering a love of history that will hopefully only get stronger as these students continue to participate in this competition and others like it. It was clear that Dr. Adams and each person who volunteered their time to the event hoped to inspire a continued passion for history and historical research in the participants.