Canterbury Tales: The Life

Helpful sites:

 <http://www.notablebiographies.com/Ch-Co/Chaucer-Geoffrey.html>

<http://www.librarius.com/cantales.htm>

1. Who is the author of The Canterbury Tales? List five facts about this author’s early life (biographical information).
2. What conclusions can you make about Chaucer based upon the many job titles he held during his lifetime?
3. What was his “masterpiece”? What were his original intentions for his “masterpiece”?
4. What are you looking forward to about reading excerpts from The Canterbury Tales now that you have learned a little bit more about the text/author/setting ?

The Time

1. What time-period is The Canterbury Tales depicting?
2. What is 1 example of why religion may have been so important in the Middle Ages? Explain.
3. What were the “Three Estates” during the Middle Ages? <http://cla.calpoly.edu/~dschwart/engl430/estates.html>
4. What was the Black Death? <http://the-orb.net/textbooks/nelson/black_death.html>
5. What is so special about Canterbury? (is there a religious/historical site there?) <http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/conservation/history/>
6. Who is St. Thomas á Becket? Why is he famous?
7. What are you looking forward to about reading excerpts from The Canterbury Tales now that you have learned a little bit more about the text/author/setting ?

The Tales

<http://www.librarius.com/cantales.htm>

1. What is a pilgrimage? - <http://www.webster.com>
2. The Canterbury Tales begins with a prologue and then follows a format where each character tells stories as they travel on a pilgrimage— how many stories does each character tell?
3. The Canterbury Tales is a story about a journey. Where does the journey start? Where is it supposed to end?
4. What language was the Canterbury Tales first written in? List 1 reason of why Chaucer may have chosen to write this piece in that language
5. What is a frame tale (also known as a frame narrative)? <http://www.cla.purdue.edu/academic/engl/theory/narratology/terms/>
6. What are you looking forward to about reading excerpts from The Canterbury Tales now that you have learned a little bit more about the text/author/setting ?