The Real Beauty and the Beast

**Directions:** Search the internet to discover the true story behind the fairytale about a beautiful woman and her beast of a prince.

**Did the real story include a curse?**

1. Who was the real beast?
2. From what genetic condition did he suffer?
3. How might this condition have made people believe him to be a beast?
4. What was his status in society?

**Setting**

1. In what country and during what time period did the historical Beauty and Beast live?
2. What is the setting and time period of the Disney versions?

**Was the original beast royalty?**

1. Where was the original Beast born?
2. How did his fellow villagers treat him? (living conditions, food, etc.)
3. Where was he sent in 1547 and why?
4. What was the “experiment” that his new master wanted to conduct?
5. How did this change his life?

**How did Beast meet his Belle?**

1. Who was “Belle”?
2. When did Beast and “Belle” meet?
3. Who orchestrated their union and why?
4. What does this tell you about how the world truly viewed this family?

**What happened to the Beast and his family?**

1. How many children did the couple have?
2. How many were valued by their owners? What made them valuable?
3. Who now employed, or rather owned, the beast and his family?
4. What did the new employer do with the “special” children of the couple?
5. Why is there no record of the Beast’s death?
6. What does this tell you about how he was truly viewed by the world?

**Your thoughts:** In a paragraph or two answer the following question: Do you think the beast and his Belle had a love story? Explain.