

Travel to Mesopotamia!

In Social Studies class you have learned that a civilization is a complex society that contains cities, governments, laws, art, religion, class divisions, and a writing system. You have also learned that the earliest known civilizations were located in Mesopotamia.

Imagine you have just been hired by the Mesopotamia Department of Travel and Tourism to help bring more visitors to the area. Create a travel brochure or PowerPoint presentation designed to encourage people to visit that important civilization. Use facts and evidence learned from class and/or outside resources to help you create a one-of-a-kind project. Make sure it is colorful and original!

Essential Question:

What factors affect choice of permanent settlement and how does permanent settlement affect other aspects of daily life?



Checklist for Writing

Your Brochure or PowerPoint must include an explanation of all the following topics:

1. Cover or First slide
 - “Catchy slogan” inviting your reader to learn/visit Mesopotamia
 - Include a picture related to Mesopotamia (drawn or photo/computer image)
2. Geography
 - Include a map of Ancient Mesopotamia and label all regions you identify in your project
 - Include a color coded key/legend for the major rivers, seas, and mountains.
3. Religion/Belief Systems
 - Define what religion was practiced in a city, city-state, or empire of Mesopotamia
 - Explain why religion was important in that area of Mesopotamia
 - Explain how religion was used in that area of Mesopotamia
 - Include a picture of one god/goddess (drawn or photo/computer image) with caption
4. Inventions/Achievements
 - Pick 2 inventions/achievements from a city, city-state, or empire of Mesopotamia
 - Describe each invention and make sure to tell where it came from
 - Describe why each invention/achievement is important
 - Include a picture of each invention (drawn or photo/computer image) with caption
5. Daily Life/Education
 - Choose 5 fun facts about daily life in a city, city-state, or empire of Mesopotamia (places to visit, clothes, food, education, etc.)
 - Include at least one picture (drawn or photo/computer image) with caption
6. Government and Laws
 - Define what a law is and why they are used
 - Discuss Hammurabi and his code.
 - Is Hammurabi’s Code fair/cruel? Why?
7. Misc.
 - Choose ONE of the following areas to include in your project by detailing important information. Include pictures if necessary.
 - Art/Architecture
 - Language/Writing
 - Leaders/Conquests

Rubric for Mesopotamia Travel Project and Presentation

Category	4 Advanced	3 Proficient	2 Basic	1 Below Basic
Required elements	Additional AND required elements are included	All required elements are included	Most required elements are included	Limited amount of required elements included
Quality of Information	Information uniquely demonstrates an in-depth understanding of all topics and is paraphrased in your own words	Information sufficiently demonstrates an understanding of all topics and is paraphrased in your own words	Information minimally demonstrates an understanding of all topics and may or may not be paraphrased in your own words	Information does not demonstrate an understanding of all topics and may or may not be paraphrased in your own words
Amount of Information	All topics are addressed with at least 5 sentences/examples each and cover 3 or more places in the overall project	All topics are addressed with at least 4 sentences/examples each and cover 2 or more places in the overall project	Limited topics are addressed with at least 3 sentences/examples each and cover only 1 place in the overall project	Some topics missing and/or have 2 or fewer sentences/examples each and cover only 1 place in the overall project
Diagrams and Illustrations	All diagrams and illustrations are neat, colorful, accurate, and add to the reader's understanding of the topic	Most diagrams and illustrations are neat, accurate, colorful, and add to the reader's understanding of the topic	Limited diagrams are neat, accurate, colorful, and add to the reader's understanding of the topic	Diagrams and illustrations are missing altogether
Oral Presentation Skills	The whole time, student was well prepared and used good body language, eye contact, volume, clarity, and pace	Most of the time, student was well prepared and used good body language, eye contact, volume, clarity, and pace	Student showed limited preparation and use of good body language, eye contact, volume, clarity, and pace	Student was not prepared and/or did not use good body language, eye contact, volume, clarity, and pace

Comments: