

Name: _____

Ancient Civilizations Inquiry Project

Step 1: Choose a ONE Big Idea to explore for your inquiry

- **Geographic conditions** shaped the emergence of civilizations.
 - *Possible topics:* importance of environment in building successful civilizations; what role does geography play in the location of civilizations; rise and fall of a civilization focused on physical environment
- **Religious and cultural practices** that emerged during this period have endured and continue to influence people.
 - *Possible topics:* what led to the spread of Christianity; importance of religion in everyday life; influence of religion on law and government; significance (importance) of a cultural contribution (see below); rise and fall of a civilization focused on religion and/or cultural practices
 - ☆ **Culture** – writing and number systems (language), philosophy, education, religion and spirituality, visual arts, drama, architecture, timekeeping
- **Increasingly complex societies required new systems of law and government.**
 - *Possible topics:* politics and the influence of famous leaders; good or bad leaders; rise and fall of a civilization focused on good or bad leadership
- **Economic specialization and trade networks** can lead to conflict and cooperation between societies.
 - *Possible topics:* trade between civilizations (cause and effect); causes and resolutions to wars; advanced technology; rise and fall of a civilization focused on good or bad connections to other civilizations

Step 2: Choose an Ancient Civilization

There were several ancient civilizations, but please choose from the following list:

- Ancient Mesopotamia
- Ancient Egypt
- Ancient Greece
- Ancient Rome
- Ancient China
- A combination of two or more depending on your focus (Ex. Comparing the social structures of Ancient Egypt and Ancient Rome)

☆ If you are highly interested in an ancient civilization not on the list, please see me first for permission.

Step 3: Create an inquiry question to guide your research

Your inquiry question must show the teacher that you put thought into your topic, researched quality information, and tackled **SPECIFIC** important questions.

How were the pyramids built?	<i>versus</i>	Why were the pyramids built? What was the purpose of them? Did they symbolize anything? What type of leadership was needed to take on such a large task?
What type of physical environment were civilizations built on?	<i>versus</i>	What were the key characteristics needed to build a successful civilization? What is the importance of environment for the rise and strength of a civilization? Did the environment play a role in the fall of civilizations?
What is Egyptian mythology?	<i>versus</i>	What was the importance of mythology and storytelling in everyday life? Did mythology play a role in leadership, laws, and government? What are the similarities and differences between Egyptian and Grecian mythology? What do the mythologies have in common and why do you think there are similarities?
How did Alexander the Great become a leader?	<i>versus</i>	Was Alexander the Great and good or bad leader? Alexander the Great is known as the greatest military leader of all time, why?

Consider the following ways to present your information:

- **Cause and Effect**
 - In my opinion, _____ led to _____ because...
 - _____ was a result of _____, here is my evidence...
- **Comparison** (2 or more civilizations)
 - Advantages and disadvantages (good and bad) of a topic or person
 - Similarities and differences
 - Comparing two civilizations and deciding which was most impressive, advanced, or stronger, etc.
- **Persuasion** (convincing your reader)
 - The civilization, government, culture, technology, science, etc. was the **most advanced** because...
 - The pharaoh, emperor, etc. was a **good / bad leader** because...
 - The civilization that had the **most contributions** to modern day is...
 - The civilization **fell (ended, conquered, destroyed, etc.)** because...

Step 3: Choose a mode of presentation

- PowerPoint Presentation, Prezi
- Poster (with info and pictures)
- Persuasive Essay
- Brochure (11 x 17 paper)
- Shoebox diorama, model *
- Written work – diary entry, newspaper article
- Video – short film, music video
- Creating or building an object *
- Art – painting, sculpture *

* Must hand in a typed, short essay related to the Big Idea/inquiry question.

Step 4: Research, Bibliography and Weekly Reflections

- Other than the internet, you need to use **at least 3 books** in your research!
- You will need to complete a bibliography (keep track of the sources you used) – see “**How to Format your Bibliography**” handout for further instructions
 - Your bibliography should be neatly handwritten or typed
- You will need to complete weekly reflections (see page 4)

Step 5: Gallery Walk (week after due date)

- Half the class will be circulating the classroom visiting and admiring other students’ inquiry projects; the other half will be briefly presenting and discussing their projects.
 - Be prepared to answer questions, explain what you did for your project and what you’ve learned.
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IMPORTANT DATES

Proposal due – week of May 9th – 12th

Reflection and Check-in #1 – week of May 16th-19th (Spring Concert Tues. & Wedns.)

Reflection and Check-in #2 – week of May 23rd – May 26th (no school Monday)

Reflection and Check-in #3 – week of May 30th – June 2nd (no school Monday)

COMPLETED INQUIRY PROJECT DUE WEEK OF:
TUESDAY, JUNE 6TH – THURSDAY, JUNE 9TH

WEEKLY REFLECTION CRITERIA

On FreshGrade, go to “**Social Studies: Ancient Civilizations Inquiry Project**”

Include the following information in **ALL** of your reflections, if possible:

1. Progress so far – what have you done for your project up to this point?
2. Future tasks – what will you be doing next?
3. What has gone well so far **OR** something you have found interesting
4. What are you having difficulty with **AND** what you can do to solve the problem
5. Any general comments related to the project or topic

★ **BEFORE YOU POST YOUR REFLECTION**, make sure to write “Reflection # ____” so it is easier to keep track of your reflections!