**Mesopotamia Presentation**

**Instructions**

Individually, your task is to create an interesting and informative presentation that outlines your topic in terms of its:

* Historical Significance
* Importance
* Impact on modern day life

Your presentation should be **no longer than 3-4 minutes** and can take on any form you wish. You may wish to complete and present a power point or other type of presentation, you may want to involve the class in an activity, or you may decide to do some combination of the above, create a digital story using some sort of video editor, or, ideally, come up with a new idea. As long as it fits the criteria you may do it.

**Resources**

You may use any suitable and accurate resources for your work. This includes classroom resources (i.e., text books, maps, books, etc.), or Internet resources. A good starting point should be the library databases as they have a great number of excellent articles about Mesopotamia.

Also, you must record where you got your information on a separate sheet entitled Reference Information. You should have a **minimum** of 3 sources and on your sheet and a 1-2 sentence summary of what you found and used for your presentation from that resource. You do not need to use particular software (e.g., noodle tools) or particular citation styles (e.g., MLA, APA, etc.).

**Criteria/Assessment**

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|  | **Presentation** |  |
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|  | **References Information** |  |
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**Topic Choices**

* **Cradle of Civilization/Fertile Crescent** – This is the area in and around the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Why is it so important? Why was it able to sustain civilization? What is important about the geography/climate/etc.? Do you see some connection between the historical importance and modern conflict in the middle east?
* **Money/Trade** – How did money start? Why did it start? Was trade important to creating civilization or was it a result of civilization?
* **Writing** – What did writing to improve the daily life of people? Could civilization have happened without it?
* **Government** – What form of government existed in ancient Mesopotamia? Was it better or worse that what we use today? What are the similarities, what are the differences? Where would you rather live?
* **Hammurabi’s code** – What was the code? Why is it important? What do you think about it?
* **Religion** – How was religion a part of daily life in ancient Mesopotamia? Why was it so important to the people/the rich or poor/the government?
* **Innovations/Inventions** – Cover at least 2-3 innovations and explain their importance and development. Ideally, these would be
* **Famous People** – e.g., Hammurabi, King Solomon
* **The Epic Tale of Gilgamesh** – Summarize the tale of Gilgamesh and draw any links to other stories you’ve heard from modern culture. Why was story telling important to the ancient civilizations?
* **The Sumerians, The Babylonians, The Assyrians – What’s the difference?** – Compare and contrast these different cultures. Attempt to summarize the confusing and changing nature of these powerful and competing civilizations.
* **Your choice** – Prepare and submit a proposal for a topic