River Valley Civilizations Project

Objective: to specialize in one aspect of civilization and to become acquainted with each of the river valley societies.

You will sign up for one of five different aspects of civilization. You will be responsible for researching this single concept across each river valley civilization (Egypt, Mesopotamia, Indus Valley, China, and Phoenicia). You will be given a **resource pack** that contains all necessary information to complete the assignment.

Resource packs will challenge you to accomplish three tasks:
1) Read the assigned excerpts from the textbook.
2) Read the additional source provided in the pack.
3) Write an annotated bibliography in Chicago style for both reading assignments.

An **annotated bibliography** is a bibliography of a source that includes brief notes about the source. Annotated bibliographies contain three parts:
- Summary – succinctly describe the source's main ideas
- Evaluation – identify the credibility of the source's author(s) and/or organization
- Reflection – explain how the source helps develop your understanding of the research topic

These three parts should be arranged is the order above and separated into their own paragraphs so that they are easy to identify.

Your resource pack will provide a specific focus for your reflections. The five aspects are:

- Religion
- Government
- City Planning
- Writing
- Economics

Circle your assigned aspect once you've received the resource pack.

Religion Resource Pack

Textbook readings:

Ch. 1 Sec. 3 (pg. 23)
Ch. 2 Sec. 1 (pg. 31-2)
Ch. 2 Sec. 2 (pg. 37-8)
Ch. 2 Sec. 3 (pg. 48)
Ch. 2 Sec. 4 (pg. 52-4)

Additional source:

Excerpt from *Book of the Dead*

Reflection question:

What role did religion play in the everyday life of citizens and the overall organization of early civilizations?

Government Resource Pack

Textbook readings:

Ch. 1 Sec. 3 (pg. 20, 23)
Ch. 2 Sec. 1 (pg. 31-4)
Ch. 2 Sec. 2 (pg. 37, 41)
Ch. 2 Sec. 3 (pg. 46)
Ch. 2 Sec. 4 (pg. 51, 54-5)
Ch. 3 Sec. 3 (pg. 74)

Additional source:

excerpt from *Hammurabi's Code*
excerpt on the Mandate of Heaven from the Chinese *Book of Documents*

Reflection question:

How did government facilitate unification and organization in early civilizations?

City Planning Resource Pack

Textbook readings:

Ch. 1 Sec. 3 (pg. 22-3)
Ch. 2 Sec. 1 (pg. 30-1)
Ch. 2 Sec. 2 (pg. 39-40)
Ch. 2 Sec. 3 (pg. 46)
Ch. 2 Sec. 4 (pg. 52, 54-5)
Ch. 3. Sec. 3 (pg. 74-5)

Additional source:

excerpt from *Form and Meaning in the Earliest Cities: A New Approach to Ancient Urban Planning* by Michael E. Smith

Reflection question:

How did the organization of cities facilitate growth in early communities?

Writing Resource Pack

Textbook readings:

Ch. 1 Sec. 3 (pg. 20)
Ch. 2 Sec. 1 (pg. 32)
Ch. 2 Sec. 2 (pg. 40)
Ch. 2 Sec. 3 (pg. 48)
Ch. 2 Sec. 4 (pg. 53)
Ch. 3 Sec. 3 (pg. 74-5)

Additional source:

Instructions in Letter Writing by an Egyptian Scribe
The Development in Writing an article in ABC-CLIO

Reflection question:

How did writing influence the organization of early civilizations?

Economics Resource Pack

Textbook readings:

Ch. 1 Sec. 3 (pg. 19-20, 22-3)
Ch. 2 Sec. 1 (pg. 32)
Ch. 2 Sec. 2 (pg. 35, 40)
Ch. 2 Sec. 3 (pg. 48)
Ch. 2 Sec. 4 (pg. 54-5)
Ch. 3 Sec. 3 (pg. 73-4, 76)

Additional source:

Still needed

Reflection question:

How did economic systems evolve from the time of hunter-gatherer communities, early agricultural communities, and eventually civilizations?

River Valley Fact Sheet

Objective: to provide a detailed, yet succinct description of your aspect across all river valley civilizations.
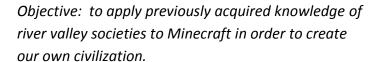
Work together with the other students who researched your same theme. As a group, determine the key characteristics of your aspect for each river valley civilization (Egypt, Mesopotamia, Indus Valley, China, and Phoenicia) and <u>type</u> a fact sheet that is no longer than one page (Calibri font, size 12).

When you are finished, send an email (via GoogleDocs or Word) containing your fact sheet to your teacher. Your teacher will print out copies of each group's fact sheet to pass out to the rest of the class. All five fact sheets should be attached to one page in your Interactive Notebook in a way in which you can view all of them.

You may wish to use the format below to organize your notes:

[ASPECT]

Egypt:

[Notes]

Egypt:

[Notes]

Mesopotamia:

[Notes]

Indus Valley:

[Notes]

China:

[Notes]

Phoenicia:

[Notes]

Creating a Civilization in Minecraft

MINECRAFTEDU

Objective: to apply previously acquired knowledge of river valley societies to Minecraft in order to create our own civilization.

Now that you are an expert in one aspect of civilization, you will have a direct hand in shaping that aspect of our class's own civilization. Work with the other students with whom you completed the fact sheet in order to agree upon three features of that aspect that will be consistent between all your individual writing. Write these three features below:

1)

2)

3)

Using these features, you will soon be assigned a role in our civilization based on the aspect you have already researched. You will have two responsibilities for this next activity: 1) to write an essay that identifies, explains, and compares this aspect of our civilization to the river valley civilizations we have studied, and 2) to construct your aspect's necessary structures according to the choices you make in terms of style and purpose. Note that you will be interacting with other groups in the game – some groups may instruct you where to build and others might require you to provide them with items in exchange for food or building materials, for example.

You can choose to write your essay first and then build in Minecraft, build in Minecraft first and then write, or you can alternate between the two as you go along. The choice is yours! By the assigned due date, your essay and your constructions in the game must be completed.

Minecraft Roles and Responsibilities

Religion ➔ **Priests**

Responsibilities:

- *Determine our civilization's religion*
- *Design and build a religious building*
- *Write an essay in response to the following prompt using the CEE model:*
    - o *Prompt:* What role did religion play in the everyday life of citizens and the overall organization of early civilizations?

Government ➔ **Officials**

Responsibilities:

- *Determine our civilization's government, including laws for the Minecraft world*
- *Design and build a government building*
- *Write an essay in response to the following prompt using the CEE model:*
    - o *Prompt:* How did government facilitate unification and organization in early civilizations?

City Planning ➔ **Architects**

- Determine the layout of our civilization and inform the other groups where to build
- Design and build any necessary auxiliary buildings (livestock pens, city walls, etc.)
- *Write an essay in response to the following prompt using the CEE model:*
    - o *Prompt:* How did the organization of cities facilitate growth in early communities?

Writing ➔ **Scribes**

- Determine our civilization's language
- Build all signs indicating buildings and other necessary objects in Minecraft
- *Write an essay in response to the following prompt using the CEE model*
    - o *Prompt:* How did writing influence the organization of early civilizations?

Economics ➔ **Farmers/Miners/Merchants**

- Determine our civilization's best source(s) of food and resources
- Build farms, mines, filled treasure chests, and roads connecting all structures
- *Write an essay in response to the following prompt using the CEE model:*
    - o *Prompt:* How did economic systems evolve from the time of hunter-gatherer communities, early agricultural communities, and eventually civilizations?

River Valley Civilizations Project Rubric

	10	8	6	4
Bibliography	Both bibliographic entries are expertly formatted in the Chicago style.	Bibliographic entries are successfully formatted in the Chicago style, but contain one glaring error.	Bibliographic entries are basically formatted in the Chicago style, but contain a couple glaring errors.	Bibliographic entries do not satisfactorily demonstrate the Chicago style.
	20	**16**	**12**	**8**
Annotations	Summaries and evaluations are expertly detailed, yet concise; reflections analyze the information and discuss in detail how content may be applied to the class's own civilization.	Summaries and evaluations are strong; reflections discuss the information and indicate how it might be applied to the class's own civilization.	Summaries and evaluations are basic; reflections indicate basic thought and application to the class's own civilization.	Summaries, evaluations, are subpar; reflections do not satisfactorily connect information researched to the class's own civilization.
	10	**8**	**6**	**4**
Fact Sheet	Information is presented clearly, in detail, and in approximately one page in Calibri font, size 12.	Key information is provided in approximately one page.	Basic information is provided in approximately one page.	Unsatisfactory information is provided, in quality, length, or both.
	10	**8**	**6**	**4**
Completion	The essay is completed in enough time to peer edit and correct; all construction in Minecraft is completed prior to the due date.	The essay and all construction in Minecraft are completed by the due date.	The essay is completed by the due date, but some construction is incomplete.	The essay was rushed and construction is incomplete.
	10	**8**	**6**	**4**
Use of the CEE model	The essay makes expert claims, supports them with meaningful evidence, and explains claims and evidence in great detail.	The essay contains solid claims, supports them with evidence, and provides explanations for both.	The essay is missing one critical element of argumentation or weakly contains all three.	The essay does not follow the CEE model; claims are not made, supported, or explained in a satisfactory manner.
	10	**8**	**6**	**4**
Clarity	Writing is exceptionally able to be comprehended by the reader and the essay traces a focused argument.	Writing is comprehended by the reader and the essay remains focused on the main idea.	Writing is sometimes not comprehended well and the essay occasionally strays away from the main idea.	Writing is very difficult to comprehend and the essay does not follow any clear main idea.
	20	**16**	**12**	**8**
Persuasiveness	The essay expertly convinces the reader of its claims and is exceptionally compelling in argument.	The essay convinces the reader of its claims and provides a successful argument.	The essay contains some convincing arguments, but the reader raises some critical questions.	The essay does not convince the reader that its argument is plausible and many critical questions remain.
	10	**8**	**6**	**4**
Proofreading	All writing is absolutely free from spelling, grammar, and other proofreading errors.	Writing is mostly free from spelling, grammar, and other proofreading errors.	Writing contains a few glaring spelling, grammar, and/or other proofreading errors.	Writing contains an unacceptable amount of spelling, grammar, and/or other proofreading errors.

Additional comments: Total = _____/100