Unit Two Civilizations Project

Overview:

Each student will be assigned a culture that existed in ancient Mesopotamia or Egypt. The task is to research the culture and create a podcast that highlights some of the notable features of the civilization.

Directions:

Part I:

1. A historical overview of the civilization.

Students will conduct research in the Media Center/Computer Lab and at home to gather information on their culture. The possible cultures are listed below. Each podcast must include a historical overview of the culture in general.

**Step One:** Select an aspect of Ancient Mesopotamia/Egypt that you find particularly interesting. A list is provided below of possible topics. If you decide on a topic outside of the list, it must be approved by your teacher.

***Civilizations***

***-Sumerians/ Akkadians***

***-Old Babylonians (Amorites)***

***-New Babylonians (Chaldeans)***

***-Egyptians***

 ***Old kingdom (2575 BCE-2130 BCE)***

 ***New kingdom (1539 BCE-1075 BCE)***

***-Assyrians***

***-Hittites***

***-Phoenicians***

***-Persians***

***-Hebrews***

**Step Two:** Create a podcast and a podcast questionnaire about a specific topic on the list that you select.

 Goal: Make a podcast and a podcast questionnaire

You will select an aspect the Civilization you have chosen to research and then create a 5-minute podcast to elaborate about a topic of your choice to the class. For the examples of what a podcast is beyond the version modeled in class, consult your teacher’s website for different examples.

**Your Podcast must cover the following basic elements of the research process**:

* You must use at least 5 different sources for your information

You must fill out a Nooldetools page.

* Works cited must be listed in alphabetical order and done in MLA format and turned in with you and your partner’s Noodletools page.
* You may not use Wikipedia or similar/mirror sites (about.com, etc.).

A. Your Podcast should take a journalistic approach to the topic itself:

 *- Answer the following probing questions-Who? What? When? Why? and How?*

Students should pick **2 (More for groups of 2 or 3)** of the following topics to include in the podcast. The topics should be thoroughly researched and logically presented in the podcast.

* 1. How/Why did they rise?
	2. How/Why did they fall?
	3. Education/schooling
	4. Entertainment
	5. Women (Status, roles, labor, education)
	6. Occupations and social classes
	7. Economy/Trade (how, what, with who?)
	8. Relations with other cultures (did they get along with neighbors?)
	9. Geography/Environment/Resources (adapting to it and changing it).
	10. **Religion** and **ethical beliefs**
	11. **Accomplishments** and **inventions** (unique to this culture)
	12. **Government** (how was it organized, who lead) and **Laws** (what were some examples)?
1. *What was the underlying and immediate impact of the topic on the civilization? How is this topic remembered in conjunction with the decades in which it happened? (Historical Legacy)*
2. *What impact did this topic have on the study of Ancient History? Be historically accurate!*

B. Use the “**Audacity Direction Sheet**” included in this packet to construct your podcast.

 Audacity is found on the PC’s in the Media Center.

* Podcasts can be structured as nightly news segments, real time interviews with important figures, re-enactments of important events, professional talking head style elaboration of content, or a mish mash of different types. Be Appropriate, Be Creative!!!

**Step Three**: Completing the questionnaire and Sharing Your Podcast

* Design a questionnaire to complete the podcast project. The questionnaire should be 5-7 questions based on the content of the podcast you have created. This means your peers must be able to listen to the podcast and complete the questions as written.
* Once completed, your podcast must be saved as an MP3 file and submitted to your teacher via email. Your teacher will then put your group’s podcast on their website for the world to listen to.

**Step Four:** Listening to Other Podcasts

* Once the website has been updated to include the podcasts from your class, you will be assigned a podcast to listen to, the podcast questionnaire to complete, and the podcast evaluation to complete.

Student’s Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Skills**

1. The podcast is the appropriate length-(5 ***minute minimum***) \_\_\_\_/10

2. Rate of speaking and clarity of speech are appropriate…… ……… \_\_\_\_/10

3. The podcast shows clear evidence of planning and preparation. This includes

 the proper number of sources used, the appropriate types of sources,

 and the creation of the podcast questionnaire …… … \_\_\_\_/10

4. All directions are followed in creating the podcast, and the student’s

 podcast questionnaire are turned in on time.…………………… ….. \_\_\_\_/10

**Content**

5. The podcast and lesson is organized with the following things clearly defined:

 ***Introduction- Who? What?***

 ***Supporting Evidence- When? Why? How?***

 ***Conclusion-Legacy?***……………………………………………………….………………….. \_\_\_\_/25

6. The podcast is appropriate in tone, is 100% historically accurate, and focuses

 on enlightening the class to the importance of your topic…… …. . \_\_\_\_/25

7. The podcast questionnaire seeks to enhance your peers understanding of

 several aspects of the documentary material..………… ……………………. \_\_\_\_/10

 Total \_\_\_\_\_\_/100

**Podcast Listening Notesheet:**

***Basic Understanding Questions:*** *these are questions that ask who, what, where and attempt to gain a general understanding of the topic.*

***Thought questions:*** *these questions ask about the significances, impact or about the importance of the person, event or things.*

**Podcast Questions:**

1. What Podcast topic(s) did you choose? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-Listening Questions:**

1. What basic understanding questions do you have about this topic?
2. What thought questions do you have about this topic?

While you are listening complete the following chart:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| What is the main topic? |  |
| When did the event take place? And who or what was involved?  |  |
| What is the significance of the main topic? |  |
| What type of evidence is the podcaster using in his or her recording? Give an example of specific facts that they mention |  |
| General Notes |  |

**Post-Listening Questions:**

1. What was the format of the podcast? (was it a conversation, informational reading, etc.)
2. What new questions do you have?
3. What topic(s) related to this podcast can you think of that would be interesting to learn about?