Stephanie Gray and Sarah Kennedy

**Rationale:**

Based on the Common Core standards, we recognize the importance of teaching students about the early civilizations with their unique governments, economic systems, social structures, religions, technologies, and agricultural practices. Because of the very interesting information present on the Huang Ho River Civilization, we decided to target our unit around their people and practices. While reading through the unit, one would be able to recognize that we seamlessly tied in the geography themes where they were most appropriate with the content. This lends itself to more authentic instruction. Our lessons also begin with more basic concepts about the region in the beginning (climate, regions, landmarks, absolute location, etc.) and move towards more complex and abstract topics (culture, inventions, reasons for movement, etc.). We believe that in doing so, students can build upon their prior knowledge and become more successful at learning the information for a long period of time.

Because of the excitement that technology brings, we decided to target our final project around making a Prezi that had students show overall knowledge of the Yellow River Civilization. We did not want this final project to seem overwhelming to students, so we made sure to designate time in each lesson plan to adding to the Prezi. That way, they were working on their final project in small chunks instead of it taking up entire days at the end of the unit.

In order to engage our students, we included many great activities. We recognized the importance of teaching note taking, the power of graphic organizers, the significance of teaching researching skills, and the authenticity of great discussion.

**Essential Questions:**

**-**What are the basic geographical facts surrounding the location of the Huang He Civilization that was influential in its history?

**-**How did the Huang He River affect the ancient civilization people?

-How is the Yellow River different today and what can be done to prevent negative effects?

**-**What dynasties made up the beginning of the Chinese Civilization?

-When did the Yellow River Civilization develop in relation to other ancient civilizations?

-Which items/procedures did the Yellow River Valley Civilization invent?

-How important were these inventions to their ability to thrive?

-What causes people to move from one location to another?

-How important was the silk road to China’s ability to thrive?

-What is the mandate of heaven?

-How does the ancient Chinese government differ from our present day government?