**Introduction:**

This Unit is based on the ancient river civilization of Mesopotamia. In this Unit, students will be exploring several different aspects of ancient Mesopotamian life. I have left some of the activities open-ended to allow students to show their own creativity and focus on what really interests them. Through the Unit, they will be exploring the 5 themes of geography through different lessons. Although it isn’t the main goal of the lesson, they will be learning them through application. This Unit is also cross-curricular by including mathematics.

**OACS Included in this Unit:**

History

1. Events can be arranged in order of occurrence using the conventions of B.C. and A.D. or B.C.E. and C.E.

2. Early civilizations (India, Egypt, China and Mesopotamia) with unique governments, economic systems, social structures, religions, technologies and agricultural practices and products flourished as a result of favorable geographic characteristics. The cultural practices and products of these early civilizations can be used to help understand the Eastern Hemisphere today.

Geography

3. Globes and other geographic tools can be used to gather, process and report information about people, places and environments. Cartographers decide which information to include and how it is displayed.

5. Regions can be determined, classified and compared using various criteria (e.g., landform, climate, population, cultural, or economic).

Government

10. Governments can be categorized as monarchies, theocracies, dictatorships or democracies, but categories may overlap and labels may not accurately represent how governments function. The extent of citizens’ liberties and responsibilities varies according to limits on governmental authority.

**Essential Questions:**

* How have ideas and events from the past shaped the Eastern Hemisphere today?
* How do we know what we know about the world today?
* How does where you live influence how you live?
* How does governmental authority affect citizens’ rights?

**Assessments:**

A rubric will be used to assess all areas of the Unit. Parts of the Unit being assessed include: Scavenger Hunt, Map, Math Sheet, Timeline, Debate, and Presentation.