Day 6-7:

Topic: Cultural and Scientific Contributions

Standard:

* *Early Civilizations: 4. Compare the geographic, economic and social characteristic of the river civilizations in the Tigris and Euphrates (Mesopotamia), Nile (Egypt), Huang Ho and Indus valleys before 1000 B.C.*

Geography Themes:

* Location, Place, Human/Environment Interactions, Movement, and Region

Lesson Objectives:

1. Students will interpret and research the effects of Mesopotamian “firsts” on our society.
2. Students will produce a poster to show the importance of the “first” they chose.

Summary:

* Students will begin to work on their ending project for the lesson by investigating an important scientific invention or contribution from Mesopotamian society. Before picking an invention/contribution, I will have students brainstorm with their groups the “firsts” we have already learned about from Mesopotamia (first epic, first written language, first set of written laws). We will discuss why those “firsts” evolved in Mesopotamia and how they affect out society today. In this ending project, students will be divided into groups of 3-4. Each group will choose an invention to research (if students cannot choose they can draw them randomly). The inventions, or firsts, they can choose from are the plow, the Pythagorean theorem, the concept of zero, glass, the wheel, the concept of time (60 seconds/60 minutes), chariots, scribes for writing, the arch, and irrigation. Each group will research why their “first” began in Mesopotamia. Share the example of cuneiform writing. It evolved because people wanted a more efficient way to keep track crop trading/prices. They will then talk about how that “first” has affected our society today. Symbol writing is one way we communicate with others in our society. Have them imagine if we wouldn’t have symbol writing what our society would be like. They will research these questions and present their findings and ideas in a Power point presentation for the class. I will go over the rubric to see if the students have any question about the project.
* See rubric for project. They will present their findings for the class.

Day 8:

Topic: Presentations

Standard:

* *Early Civilizations: 4. Compare the geographic, economic and social characteristic of the river civilizations in the Tigris and Euphrates (Mesopotamia), Nile (Egypt), Huang Ho and Indus valleys before 1000 B.C.*

Geography Themes:

* Location, Place, Human/Environment Interactions, Movement, and Region

Lesson Objectives:

1. Students will interpret and research the effects of Mesopotamian “firsts” on our society.
2. Students will produce a poster to show the importance of the “first” they chose.
3. Students will orally present their presentations.

Summary:

* Students will present their invention/contribution presentations today. Each group will be given five minutes to talk about the invention and explain why it was important to the society then and why it is important to societies today. There should be plenty of pictures present on the power point. We will talk as a class about the invention and how it may effect students in their own lives.