*Key Assessment:*

**Mesopotamian Firsts**

Explanation of Project:

Mesopotamia is known as the “land of firsts”. I knew before I started designing my unit, that I wanted students to investigate the different “firsts” developed by this civilization and how they still affect us today. This allows students to connect with this ancient civilization on a personal level. For this project, students will be divided into groups of three to four students. Students will choose an invention or contribution developed by the Mesopotamians that still affects us today. I will provide a list for them to choose from. Each group will be researching a different contribution. Some of the inventions/contributions students will be able to research include 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 They will first be investigating why that invention/contribution developed in ancient Mesopotamia. After investigating this, students will then research how that invention still affects us today. They will present their finding in a Power Point, which they will present to the class as a group.

Rubric Explanation:

I divided the project into five major sections

* Past: In this section, students will be graded in on their research of why the invention/contribution developed out of Mesopotamia. They will explain how it helped the ancient Mesopotamians.
* Present: In this portion of the project, students will talk about how this invention has affected our society.
* Summarization: After completing the entire project, students will finish with a summarizing statement about the affect of their “first”.
* Visual: I will grade students based on the appearance of their PowerPoint presentation. The presentation must be free of spelling and grammar errors, include pictures, and have clear statements.
* Oral: While presenting their PowerPoint, all students must talk. I will also grade them on their depth of understanding of the topic.

***Mesopotamia “Firsts”***

***Slide Guide:***

**Title Slide**: Invention/Contribution being investigated, name of producers, relevant picture

**Past Slides**: One to two slides describing why the “first” developed in Mesopotamia. Includes pictures and explanation.

**Present Slides**: One to two slides describing how the “first” affects us still today. Include pictures of the present day invention or contribution.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Target | Acceptable | Unacceptable |
| Past:   * Why did Mesopotamians invent this? * What did it do for them? | 10 pts.  Answers questions clearly. | 7 pts.  Only partially, answers question. | 3 pts.  Does not answer question, or answer is not clear. |
| Present:   * Do we still use this invention? * How important is it to our society? * How has it shaped our society? * What would our society be like if we didn’t have it? | 10 pts.  Answers questions clearly. | 7 pts  Only partially answers questions. | 3 pts  Does not answer questions, or answer is not clear. . |
| Summarization:   * Includes a strong summarization of the project. | 8 pts.  Summarization is strong and clear ending to the presentation. | 4pts.  Summarization lacks either strength or clarity. | 2 pt.  Summarization is weak or missing. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Visual Presentation:   * Spelling and Grammar * Relevant pictures * Easily readable and clear | 6 pts.  Presentation is free of spelling and grammar errors. It is easy to read and clear. | 4 pts.  Presentation has a few spelling and grammar errors, or has some confusing parts. | 2 pts.  Presentation has several spelling and grammar errors, or is confusing. |

**Ending Slide**: Summarization of project. Paragraph explaining the importance of their “first” and what our society would be like without it.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Oral Presentation:   * Everyone presents the slides. * Speakers are clear. * Speakers know what they are talking about. | 6 pts.  All students speak and are knowledgeable about their information. | 4 pts.  One student does not talk, and/or students’ knowledge is questionable. | 2 pts.  Two or more students do not talk, and/or are confused about material. |

Points: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 40