The Civilization Project

The following project will be broken up into different sections where each unit in class will focus on a feature of civilization. We will work on the project at the end of each unit and your will begin to build your own civilization based on what you have learned. At the end, you will have artwork, laws, and ideas about trade and religion all to do with your own civilization. After each unit, you will have a written reflection that is due. This will be a major part of the assignment and each group member will be required to submit their own response. At the end of the year, each group will present their civilizations to the class and explain their reasoning for each section. The Civilization project will be in lieu of a final exam. This means that the project is worth a large portion of your Social Studies 8 grade.

Organized Commerce

Geography - Choose a real geographical location – you can look up different geographic areas and choose one that would suit your needs as a civilization. Protection, food supply, access to trade or water, etc.

1. How will this location sustain life?
2. How will this location be advantageous for defense against attacks?

Scribblemaps.com – After you have chosen your territory for your civilization, then you need to create a map of your territory, including important landmarks and geographical landforms. Your model will need to include any mountains, rivers, or other landforms that are important to your civilizations survival. In addition, you must design your civilizations significant buildings and structures. You will use “drop pins” in order to identify the location of the structures/landmarks as well as photos that you will overlay onto the map. You must include the following:

1. Market
2. Temple
3. Town square
4. Villages (houses)
5. Farmland
6. Roads
7. Government buildings
8. Important landmarks or public works

Please answer the following on a separate piece of paper to be handed in. The following questions demonstrate your understanding of the economic impact of your geographic location and how that affects your civilization.

- Stable food supply – name at least 3 crops you are going to grow and at least 2 animals that you are going to raise. They must be currently grown/found in your geographical location.
  - How do your crops and animals affect the trade you have with neighbouring nations?
  - Why did you choose to grow those crops? What kind of yield to they bring in?

Organized Commerce Reflection Question:

1. How can geography play a role in commerce? Explain.
Religion – UNIT 1 – Comparative Civilization – Awakening Civilizations

You will be creating a small book with the 10 most important rules/teachings of your civilization’s faith. You want it to represent your people and the weight with which they take their faith. Religion is not something to be taken lightly. It will also give you the basis for how your people will interact with others as their religion will reflect their values.

Please answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper to be handed in. The following questions demonstrate your understanding of the religion that you will be speaking to.

- What god(s) is/are worshipped by the people in this civilization?
- Is your civilization polytheistic or monotheistic?
- How do the people show respect for their god(s)?
- Who are the “holy people” of your civilization?
- What are the most important teachings, rules, or ideas that your civilization’s religion teaches?
- Describe the most important religious holiday in your culture. Tell what it is and how people in your civilization celebrate it.

Religion Reflection Questions:

1. If you chose a real religion, why did your group decide on that particular one? If you made your religion up, why and how did you do so?
2. What similarities does your civilization have to the civilizations we have studied in this unit (in regards to religious beliefs)? *be sure to make specific references and pull knowledge from the religions and civilizations we have studied.
3. Why do you believe the teachings/rules of your civilization’s religion are important? What made you choose those 10?
4. How has religion impacted the development of civilizations throughout Early China, Europe’s Middle Ages, Islamic Civilization, and The Civilization of India? **Choose 1 and defend your ideas with examples from the units.

Knowledge Transfer (Education) – UNIT 2 – Europe’s High and Late Middle Ages – The Medieval World

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For this section you will be creating a piece that will transfer 3 pieces of important information about your civilization. How does your culture spread information? Through newspaper, oral history (storytelling), books, drawings, internet articles? You will need to create the information that is important to spread and then utilize the correct form of knowledge transfer to illustrate it.

Please answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper to be handed in. You must answer WHY you chose the following answers for your civilization as well. The following questions demonstrate your understanding of the different types of knowledge transfer.

- What language do they speak?
- Do they go to school? If so, up until what age?
- Is it public or privatized?
- Do they have a written or oral history?
- What kind of education do you believe in? Holistic? Focused or specialized?
Knowledge Transfer Reflection Questions:
1. Why did you decide on your specific version of knowledge transfer for your civilization?
2. How has education or knowledge (or the lack thereof) played a role in High and Late Middle Ages?
3. How is a country affected by the use of multiple languages within their national boarders?
4. What are the benefits/struggles of having 1 national language?
5. How does knowledge transfer affect the development of a civilization? **pull examples from the unit

Arts and Culture – UNIT 3 – The European Renaissance/Reformation/Counter-Reformation/Emergence of the Nation-State
-Create 3 pieces of artwork that show something important about your civilization
  -Music – Write the lyrics of a song that discusses your civilization. Include some of these topics in your song – important beliefs or values of your civilization, important religious figures, etc.
  -Create a flag of your civilization – colours mean certain things as well as the design or image on the front.
  -Advertisement – Create an ad for something in your culture. What kinds of things are important to the people in your culture? Could be food, a musician, a religious being, politically-based, etc.

Arts and Culture Reflection Questions:
1. What will your pieces of art tell future historians when they dig them up/find them?
2. How did arts and culture influence and shape Renaissance culture in Europe? How did arts and culture influence and shape culture in other countries? Bring in your knowledge from previous units.
3. How did the reformation change Europe?
4. What is a nation-state and how did it affect people?

Government – UNIT 4 – Exploration, Expansion and Colonization – Civilizations, Contact and Change
System of government – you need to decide what type of government your civilization will be using.
1. Monarchy – government in which a royal family rules the nation
2. Oligarchy – government in which a small group of “important” people rule a nation
3. Democracy – government in which people make important decisions for their own nation; this is usually done through representatives
4. Theocracy – government in which a God or gods rule through people because the whole country shares the same religion; this is usually done through priests

Please answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper to be handed in. The following questions demonstrate your understanding of the government that you will be speaking to.
- Why did you choose this type of government?
- How will the government run in a manner that helps the civilization?
- How did your team choose? Did you vote? Did 1 person decide? What type of government are you using in your group dynamic?

Laws – You will then come up with at least 10 laws that your society will have to follow. Make sure you include a punishment to match each law. Devise a plan to inform every person about the laws (tablets, statue, etc.) Create/Prepare the piece that explains your laws to present at the final presentation.
Government Reflection Questions:
1. How does a government affect the success or ruin of a civilization? Bring in examples from this unit and/or previous units.
2. What makes a successful government? Explain your reasoning and give details/examples.
4. How does your government compare to the governments we have studied up to this point? What did you try to avoid and what did you try to replicate in a government? Why?

BONUS QUESTION
After hearing about all of the other civilizations, which civilization would you get along with and trade with? WHY? (They have stuff you need, similar beliefs, similar government, etc.)
Which countries would you be at war with or stay away from? WHY?
Explain your answer with examples from others presentations and defend your case