

# Mesoamerica Project--DIRECTIONS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Core: \_\_\_\_\_

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Directions and Expectations:**

Your assignment is to create a project from the options below highlighting the Maya, Olmec, Inca, or Aztec civilizations.

Work individually, with a partner, or with a group of no more than 4. If you are working with a group, you should produce the work of 3 or 4 people. If you are working individually, only the work of one person will be expected. For example, 1 person = 1 page, 2 people = 2 pages, etc. All of these project options must be presented in front of the class. This project is worth 100 points and will affect your grade significantly. All final projects need to show effort and neatness. This means they need to be in pen or typed and edited for mistakes.

ALL YOUR WORK MUST BE YOUR OWN - NO PLAGIARIZING OR COPYING.

You will be given class time to work on this project BUT it may involve time at home as well. Please plan accordingly. It is a good idea to exchange phone numbers if you are working with a group in order to communicate at home. If you need a space to work, come and talk to me and I will let you work in my room after school. Basic school supplies will be provided but things like poster board need to be brought from home. If this is a money issue, please talk to me in private as soon as possible.

NOTE: One page equals 250 words. Also include a title, your name(s), core, and date, and a picture if required. NO COPYING! NO PLAGIARIZING!

Please be creative! This project is not super specific to allow for your creativity!

## **PROJECT OPTIONS:**

1. Create a **news broadcast** highlighting some major event(s) of the Inca, Olmec, Aztec, or Maya civilizations. You must present this broadcast to the class. It should be 2-4 minutes long depending on how many people are in your group. Please submit your script in pen or typed that is at least two pages long (must be submitted 2 days before presentation).

2. Invent **your own code that** might have been used in one of the early empires. Include 1 page of research on the civilization's written or spoken language. Use the code to write about an achievement of the Inca, Aztec, Olmec, or Mayan Empires. Also provide an English translation for this code. Minimum length: one page. Translation must be typed or written in pen.

3. Create a **Keynote/Powerpoint presentation** for the class about one aspect of Mesoamerica. Your topic must be well-researched and include a 1 page written notes before you make your Keynote. Your Keynote must be at least 15 slides with 1-2 sentences per slide. You must play the Keynote in front of the class as your presentation. Please include at least 10 pictures. Please print out the information from the slideshow and turn in (1 copy for me).

4. Write a **letter, in business letter format**, to the teacher explaining which of the four early empires is the most interesting to you, and explain why. This letter must include at least 10 facts and be at least one page long. This must be typed or written in pen.
5. Make a **model** of an Inca, Olmec, Aztec, or Mayan artifact. This could be, but is not limited to, a pyramid, jewelry, a calendar, a shield, or clothing. Make it look realistic to the time period. Include at least a one page description of what the object is and how these early people used it.
6. Research a famous Inca, Olmec, Aztec, or Mayan leader. Write a **one page report** on this person and include an illustration. Include what you like, or dislike, about this leader. Write this in your own words, do not copy from the book or internet. This must be typed or written in pen.
7. Create your own **musical piece** that represents the Aztecs, Olmecs, Mayas, or Incas. This must be original music and you can either perform it or record it. Provide a one page explanation of why you chose the music and how it relates to the culture you chose. I will not provide the recording devices.
8. Create **your own play or reenact** one of the ancient legends from the Aztecs, Olmecs, Mayas, or Incas. This can either be performed for the class, or pre-recorded and shown to the class. Provide at least a one-page script including characters and descriptions, dialogue, a descriptive setting.

### **Where do I start?**

1. Choose which project option you want to do.           Option # \_\_\_\_\_
2. Decide if you want to work with a group (4 max) or by yourself.
  - a. If you are working with a group, list those Group Members here:
3. Decide what materials you need to bring from home, if any.
  - a. Materials:
  
  - b. I need to have my materials by: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you need to work on this project outside of class? Circle one:    Yes       No
  - a. When?
  
  - b. Where?

## **Planning My Work**

5. Create a plan for what you are doing. (For example, if your group is writing a report on Aztecs, each person can research a different part, like CULTURE, HISTORY, RELIGION, FOOD & AGRICULTURE, GOVERNMENT/LAWS, etc.) Each person is responsible for their own one page report.

a. Do you need to break up jobs between your group members?

i. Person #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Job: \_\_\_\_\_

ii. Person #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Job: \_\_\_\_\_

iii. Person #3: \_\_\_\_\_ Job: \_\_\_\_\_

iv. Person #4: \_\_\_\_\_ Job: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Create a project timeline for finishing your project (circle the dates):

a. By \_\_\_\_\_, I need to have my research done.

b. By \_\_\_\_\_, I need to have my rough draft done.

c. By \_\_\_\_\_, I need to have my final draft done.

d. By \_\_\_\_\_, I need to have my project finished.

## **How to...Write a Research Report**

### **Organization & Focus**

Your report should have an introduction that includes a thesis statement telling your main idea, a body of supporting paragraphs to explain and give examples of your main ideas, a conclusion that draws meaning from the body, and a bibliography listing your sources.

### **Research & Technology**

Some of the best tools to use in your research are the questions you develop to guide you.

There are several different kinds of questions you can ask at different stages of your research.

- Who?
- Why?
- Why is this important?
- What does this mean?
- What's a good example?
- What background information do I need to know?
- What?
- When?
- Are some things more important than others? Why?
- What is this like or unlike?
- What information do I need to prove my point?
- Where?
- How?

### **Evaluation & Revision**

Share your first draft with a reader for feedback. Can your reader tell what you were trying to say? If not, your message is not coming through clearly. If your reader is confused by certain parts of your draft, you should make those parts stronger or clearer.

## Publish & Present

Prepare your final copy of your report. This should be typed or written neatly in pen with no mistakes. Make sure that your name, Core, and the date is on the top of the paper. Be sure you have a title for your report. When presenting in front of the class, be sure to practice beforehand, and remember to speak loudly when presenting.

### **Mesoamerica Project Self-Reflection**

Option #: \_\_\_\_\_ Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Think about how well you and your group worked on this project, if you had one. This is a participation grade, and will not affect the grade on your project. Did people do their jobs? Were they helping other group members? Were some members goofing off? Did one person do all of the work? Now, grade yourself and your group members and explain why you are getting this grade. I will be the final judge of what grade each person gets.

I deserve \_\_\_\_\_/50 points because: (Explain what you did.)

(person's name) \_\_\_\_\_ deserves \_\_\_\_\_/50 points because:

(person's name) \_\_\_\_\_ deserves \_\_\_\_\_/50 points because:

(person's name) \_\_\_\_\_ deserves \_\_\_\_\_/50 points because:

## **Recording My Sources of Information: Use at least two (2) different sources!**

Book Title:

Author:

Page #s:

3 facts I learned:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Internet:

Web address:

Title of the article or organization:

3 facts I learned:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Web address:

Title of the article or organization:

3 facts I learned:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Video:

Video title:

3 things I learned:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Other Source:

Type of Source:

Title:

Author:

Page #:

3 facts I learned:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Standard 6.H.2.1: I can explain how invasions, conquests, and migrations affected various civilizations, societies, and regions (e.g., the peopling of the Americas)