

MESOPOTAMIAN MUSEUM PROJECT

DUE MONDAY NOVEMBER 9



clipartof.com/1232345

Description of the project

Relevant background information

The war and continued unrest in Iraq has posed a grave danger to the safety and security of countless archaeological sites and artifacts, including those housed in the Baghdad Museum. Losing artifacts and jeopardizing historic sites is an unintended consequence of war which can have a significant effect on our understanding of history. Fortunately, there are many Mesopotamian artifacts safe and sound in museums around the world.

Project objective

You must select **5 objects** which are authentically Mesopotamian and were *created between the years 3500 BCE and 500 BCE* to include in a virtual exhibition for which you will be writing the catalog. You will also create a replica of one of the objects.

You will be producing 4 things.

1. An introduction to your exhibit. This should be at least 3 paragraphs and should address the following:
 - A common theme among the five objects (see list below)
 - Any conservation or preservation issues faced by the objects (are they falling apart? Do they need to be in a climate-controlled environment, etc.) (see list below)
 - How these objects are important to understanding about ancient Mesopotamia.
ALL WRITING MUST BE IN YOUR OWN WORDS.
2. A catalog detailing your 5 objects.
 - You will write a summary of each object. Information you should include is where it was made, why it was made, what it was used for, where it was found, when it was excavated, what it was made of and why it is important. You should also offer an explanation of any symbols or inscriptions that are part of the object. **ALL WRITING MUST BE IN YOUR OWN WORDS.**
3. A replica (model of or copy of) of one of your objects. The replica does not need to be the same size as the actual artifact.
4. A brief presentation for the class about your replica.

Check ins (these count as a homework grade):

- Monday October 26
- Monday November 2
- PROJECT DUE MONDAY NOVEMBER 9

PLANNING YOUR PROJECT:

Step #	Task	Requirements	Resources	Due Date
1	Select 5 objects / artifacts from the web sites provided	Artifacts must be Mesopotamian and made between 3500 BCE and 500 BCE	See below	Monday October 26
2	Complete research templates for each of the five objects	Research templates must be completed	See below	Monday October 26
3	Sketch the artifact you will make a replica of	Choose one of the objects about which you are writing; also list the materials you will be using		Monday November 2
4	Write each of the 5 gallery guide entries	Share or print your work	All writing must be original!	With final project on November 9
5	Write your introduction	Find similarities between the objects (materials, location, purpose, etc.) At least 3 paragraphs		With final project on November 9
6	Make your replica	Construct a replica of one of the objects you wrote about		With final project on November 9

Helpful sources or resources (web sites, books, etc.)

- <http://www.metmuseum.org/search-results?ft=ancient+near+east&pg=1&cat=Collection>
- https://www.britishmuseum.org/visiting/galleries/middle_east/room_56_mesopotamia.aspx
- http://www.mfa.org/search?search_api_views_fulltext=mесopotamia

...and don't forget about BOOKS!!! I have a few which you can use during tutorial but they may not leave the building.

HOW TO CITE YOUR SOURCES

Citing your sources is going to be important for the rest of your academic career. Here is how to do it correctly. You should use www.easybib.com -- that will format your bibliography for you!

One suggestion is that as you do your research keep a Word document open. Copy and paste the web site URLs that you use into the document and save it. Voila! Your bibliography is done.

FOR A WEB SITE:

"Saladin-Biographies." History Channel. 12 Oct. 2007 <www.historychannel.com>.

"Title of the article." Name of web site. Date accessed. <URL>.

FOR A BOOK:

Faiella, Graham. The Technology of Mesopotamia. New York: The Rosen Group, 2006.

Last name, First name. Title. City of publication: Publisher, year.

POSSIBLE THEMES FOR YOUR EXHIBITION

Keep these themes in mind when you are selecting objects. You will want to identify a common theme among your objects. Possible themes are:

- Mathematics and measurement
- Role of women
- Daily life
- First cities
- First farmers
- Invention of writing
- Law and government
- Literature
- Religion
- Science and inventions
- Warfare

YOUR INTRODUCTION

Here are some topics you may want to address in your 3 paragraph introduction for the Mesopotamia project.

- Background information about Mesopotamia
 - Dates
 - Location
 - Resources, materials available
- Theme for exhibit
 - Background on why this these is important in Mesopotamian culture and history

- Why were these objects chosen to exemplify this theme?
- Conservation and preservation issues
 - What are the threats to the objects?
 - What kind of environment should they be displayed in?

POSSIBLE CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION ISSUES

What kind of conditions should each object be kept in?

MATERIAL	POSSIBLE PRESERVATION ISSUES
Metal	Exposure to moisture Exposure to heat Exposure to oils on the skin Exposure to cleaners Accidental denting, bending or breaking
Stone	Scratching Damage from excessive handling Prolonged exposure to water Exposure to pollution Biological agents (moss, etc.)
Ceramic	Exposure to humidity Extended exposure to liquids Accidental breaking Improper mounting Excessive handling

OTHER PROJECT GUIDELINES:

- Your project needs to be typed. If there is a reason you cannot type it, please see me TODAY! We will make other arrangements. On that note, if you do not have internet access, you will need to let me know, too.
- Illustrations may be neatly printed from the computer or drawn neatly by hand. Or, you may have a combination of both.
- When determining whether an artifact is Mesopotamian, it should be classified as Mesopotamian, Sumerian, Assyrian, Akkadian, Babylonian, neo-Babylonian, Late Uruk period, or early dynastic period (be careful that it's not from Egypt). *PLEASE BE SURE THAT THE OBJECT IS NOT EGYPTIAN, GREEK, ROMAN OR SOMETHING ELSE. IT **MUST BE** MESOPOTAMIAN.* If you are not sure that it qualifies, please ask.
- Your project must have:
 - A cover page with your project title and your name
 - One object per page which includes the image and the information. Each write up should be *at least* two paragraphs
 - A replica of one object

- Your project ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY **MUST** HAVE A BIBLIOGRAPHY! (You will lose 5 points if it doesn't have one)

<i>Project element</i>	<i>Possible points</i>	<i>Points earned</i>
<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A common theme among the five objects (see list below) ● Any conservation or preservation issues faced by the objects (are they falling apart? Do they need to be in a climate-controlled environment, etc.) (see list below) ● How these objects are important to understanding about ancient Mesopotamia. 	10	
<p>Gallery guide 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● where it was made, ● why it was made, ● what it was used for, ● where it was found, ● when it was excavated, ● what it was made of and why it is important ● explanation of any symbols or inscriptions that are part of the object. 	12	
<p>Gallery guide 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● where it was made, ● why it was made, ● what it was used for, ● where it was found, ● when it was excavated, ● what it was made of and why it is important ● explanation of any symbols or inscriptions that are part of the object. 	12	

<p>Gallery guide 3</p> <p>Detailed description of object, analysis of its significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● where it was made, ● why it was made, ● what it was used for, ● where it was found, ● when it was excavated, ● what it was made of and why it is important ● explanation of any symbols or inscriptions that are part of the object. 	12	
<p>Gallery guide 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● where it was made, ● why it was made, ● what it was used for, ● where it was found, ● when it was excavated, ● what it was made of and why it is important ● explanation of any symbols or inscriptions that are part of the object. 	12	
<p>Gallery guide 5</p> <p>Detailed description of object, analysis of its significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● where it was made, ● why it was made, ● what it was used for, ● where it was found, ● when it was excavated, ● what it was made of and why it is important ● explanation of any symbols or inscriptions that are part of the object. 	12	
<p>Replica</p> <p>Creativity, accuracy, thoroughness</p>	20	

<p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Object title ● Dates (when it was made) ● What it is made out of ● Its dimensions ● What it was used for ● What we can learn about Mesopotamian culture from the object ● Any interesting or unusual details about the object 	10	
<p>Grammar / Spelling -- 1 point off for every 5 mistakes</p>		
<p>TOTAL</p>	100	

PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

You will be presenting your replica and giving the class a brief description and summary of your artifact. In your presentation, you should give us this basic information:

- Object title
- Dates (when it was made)
- What it is made out of
- Its dimensions
- What it was used for
- What we can learn about Mesopotamian culture from the object
- Any interesting or unusual details about the object

Then, you will describe how you made your replica:

- How did you make it
- What materials you used
- What your greatest challenges were when making it

And you should be ready for questions from the audience!

You can write up what you plan to say or you can use your project packet to help you remember what to say.

PROJECT CHECK IN 1 WORKSHEET (DUE MONDAY OCTOBER 26)

OBJECT TITLE _____

DATE CREATED _____ LOCATION _____

MATERIALS _____

DIMENSIONS (SIZE) IF AVAILABLE _____

WHICH ASPECT(S) OF PRIMEST DOES THIS RELATE TO? HOW? _____

WHAT IS THE CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS OBJECT? In other words... WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT MESOPOTAMIAN CULTURE AND HISTORY FROM THIS ARTIFACT?

Web site this information came from: _____

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Web site this information came from: _____

PROJECT CHECK IN 2: MONDAY NOVEMBER 2

- Print out or share with me the sections of your catalog with me.
- Below, show me a sketch of how you plan to make your replica as well as a list of materials you will need. YOUR REPLICA DOES NOT NEED TO BE LIFESIZE!

Materials you need for your replica: _____

Sketch your replica here:

Student or parent questions for Mrs. Garran

Parent Signature _____

PROJECT CHECK IN 3: MONDAY OCTOBER 27

PRINT OUT, EMAIL OR SHARE ON GOOGLE DOCS YOUR ENTIRE CATALOG! *Telling me it's on the computer at home will not be acceptable and you will get a zero.*

Student or parent questions for Mrs. Garran

Parent Signature _____

BEFORE TURNING IN YOUR PROJECT, CHECK THIS LIST TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE INCLUDED EVERYTHING!

- A cover page with your project title and your name
- A catalog with one object per page which includes the image of the object and the information.
Each write up should be *at least* two paragraphs
- A replica of one object
- A bibliography
- Notes for your presentation