MESOPOTAMIAN MUSEUM PROJECT
DUE MONDAY NOVEMBER 9

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:

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

Helpful sources or resources (web sites, books, etc.):
- [http://www.metmuseum.org/search-results?ft=ancient+near+east&amp;pg=1&amp;cat=Collection](http://www.metmuseum.org/search-results?ft=ancient+near+east&amp;pg=1&amp;cat=Collection)
- [https://www.britishmuseum.org/visiting/galleries/middle_east/room_56_mesopotamia.aspx](https://www.britishmuseum.org/visiting/galleries/middle_east/room_56_mesopotamia.aspx)
- [http://www.mfa.org/search?search_api_views_fulltext=mesopotamia](http://www.mfa.org/search?search_api_views_fulltext=mesopotamia)
...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:
“Title of the article.” Name of web site. Date accessed. <URL>.

FOR A BOOK:
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?

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

**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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project element</th>
<th>Possible points</th>
<th>Points earned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Gallery guide 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>● where it was made,</td>
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<td><strong>Gallery guide 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gallery guide 3</td>
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<td>Detailed description of object, analysis of its significance.</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<th>Gallery guide 5</th>
<th>12</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Detailed description of object, analysis of its significance.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Replica</th>
<th>20</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creativity, accuracy, thoroughness</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Presentation**

- 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

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**Grammar / Spelling** -- 1 point off for every 5 mistakes

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**TOTAL**

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**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?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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________________________________________________________________________

Web site this information came from: ________________________________
OBJECT TITLE __________________________________________________________

DATE CREATED _________________ LOCATION ________________________

MATERIALS __________________________________________________________

DIMENSIONS (SIZE) IF AVAILABLE ______________________________________

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DATE CREATED _________________ LOCATION ________________________

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DATE CREATED _________________ LOCATION ________________________

MATERIALS __________________________________________________________

DIMENSIONS (SIZE) IF AVAILABLE ______________________________________

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

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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