**CHW3M Unit 2 - Mesopotamian Dragon’s Den Assignment**

**Purpose:**

This fun activity will allow students to investigate the value and importance of the innovations created by Mesopotamians. This activity will also introduce students to the historical thinking concept of **historical** **significance**.

**Instructions:**

1. Each group will select an innovation out of a hat from the following list:

* Cuneiform script (written language) – Sumerians
* Science (astronomy – advised about adding extra month to calendar) – Babylonians
* Agricultural improvements (irrigation through canal/dyke system, seeder plow)
* Wheel
* Ziggurats – Sumerians first, then others
* Written Law Code (Hammurabi’s) – Babylonians
* Assyrian weaponry
* Math (base 60) –Babylonians

1. One group of 3-5 students chosen by the teachers will be the permanent Dragons. Their job during this time is to fill in their PERSIAT for Mesopotamia worksheet like everyone else. During the rest of the research phase the Dragons can read about and take notes on the various innovations in order to adequately judge the presentations. Did the presenters omit any key information?
2. For the historical thinking concept of **significance**, please consult your Historical Thinking Concepts package. We will focus on this **criterion** only: how many people were affected and how deeply Mesopotamian life was affected by the changes brought on by the innovation. We will **not** be focusing on long-term legacies or effects of these innovations, however important they may be.
3. Groups begin research on their innovation using the available books and other materials. You are welcome to use computers if you have them. While preparing, make sure that you avoid presentism (judging the past by today’s values). **You will take notes in your HTC journal. It will be handed in**.
4. Prepare your presentation (5 minutes max). Its components should be:

* Brief summary of your innovation (what it did, what it was like before it, when it was invented, by whom).
* Analysis of how your innovation is significant, incorporating **criteria**: how many affected by it, how deeply.
* Request for bids for investment. No need to refer to any specific monetary values. (super brief)

1. While other groups present, you will take notes in your HTC journal. These notes will be useful for you in writing the follow-up. **These notes will be handed in**.
2. While the Dragons are deciding who won, the groups will rank all of the innovations using the significance criteria. This will be done in the HTC journal. **It will be handed in.**
3. **Write-Up**: written reflection – see rubric. Also, see tips on the blog. T, A, C. To be written in HTC journal by hand. Please abide by the page limit.

Prep Days: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Presentation Day: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Write-Up Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_