**Dragons Den Presentation Notes, Feb. 22, 2018 (by Ms. G for those who were absent)**

**Writing**

What

* Pictograph first
* Then became more abstract
* A stylus was used to make wedge-shaped markings in clay
* Called cuneiform

Who and How

* Used in many languages
* Documented laws so they were consistent
* Documented history so they could preserve their culture and experiences
* Documented wages
* Created jobs – scribes and people who made royal inscriptions (in the military and in temples)
* Created education and schools
* Opened the door to religion to make the stories more detailed
* Business – merchants hired scribes

**Wheel**

What

* A tool to stop dragging ploughs around
* From 3500 BCE by the Sumerians
* Used in war, trade and pottery
* Spoked wheel 500 years later
* Wagons with wheels could carry 132 pounds
* Potters spun turntables to make smoother pottery and make it more efficiently

Who and How

* Soldiers used chariots to gain advantage in war – speed, conserve energy
* Royals used transportation as a luxury so the social hierarchy developed
* Merchants transported goods to more locations to help the economy
* Artists made pottery more efficiently
* Made other inventions possible: agricultural improvements (ploughs with wheels)

**Agricultural Improvements**

**What**

* New canal irrigation system
* Before, crops died of thirst
* Now people could water their crops
* Dug shallow canals

Who and How

* Provided many jobs for people to build and maintain the canals
* More people could farm and prevent drought
* Rise in population
* Farmers could have a consistent harvest season
* Scribes recorded barter – now more crops, so more food, so more trade/barter
* Merchants now sold more crops to different people from all over
* Social hierarchy developed out of these improvements: royalty, peasants, slaves

**Astronomy**

What

* Made a lunar calendar
* Year had 354 days
* Astrology had deep religious meaning – all things happened for a reason

Who and How

* Omens were interpreted by priests/astrologers
* Kings and nobles relied on priest/astronomers to make decisions
* Way of life based on their advice
* Farmers learned seasons when to plant and harvest – like an accurate clock
* They recorded observations of positions of the stars – archived them and looked for changes
* 365 days – off by 11 days so they added an extra month
* Made a predictable calendar with 12 lunar months to help them organize and use time wisely

**Assyrian Weaponry**

What

* From stone to copper to bronze to iron
* Made axes and swords stronger
* Easier to conquer peoples
* Siege engine on wheels attacked cities
* Set incendiary fire to cities
* Sling shot 300 feet
* Tanks? crushed cities – mounted on 6 wheels, then 5
* Composite bows were better than javelin and spears

Who and How

* Made them good at war and a superpower
* Caused them to be seen as a target
* Conquered small villages and this intimidated others
* Can’t innovate without defense

**Hammurabi’s Code**

What

* 1750 BCE
* Laws were less detailed before
* Carved on stone
* 282 laws
* Principle of an eye for an eye
* Different treatment for rich and poor people

Who and How

* Social stability resulted
* Permanently accessible
* Everyone aware of punishments – deterrence
* Prevented disputes from getting violent
* All classes affected but each had benefits and disadvantages
* Upper class had punishments but they were lighter
* Lower class had harsher punishments
* Social hierarchy became a part of the law