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**Ancient Mesopotamia**

Mini – Presentations

**Let's Take a Look at Arguably the world's OLDEST civilization.**

You will have 2 classes to create a presentation in groups of 4 (maybe 5) YOUR BATTLE OF THE BOOK GROUPS, about Mesopotamia. The following will help:

1. Divide up the tasks as outlined below.
2. Sort through the material, do not plagiarize (use summary strategies like that used in OTZI),
3. Each person will report on one of the following 4 categories. An extra person needs to be given a specialist task such as a uniting game, video researcher, etc.
4. Don't be afraid to go beyond report and include simulations, activities and games which bring out the meanings more.

**4 BROAD TOPICS YOU WILL COVER.**

**Driving Question – How did each element shape the lives of those in Mesopotamia?**

1. **DAILY LIVES**
2. **Social Hierarchy** - What was the class system in Mesopotamia? Could you move from one class to another?
3. **Jobs** – What kinds of interesting jobs did people do?
4. **Women in Mesopotamia** – What was it like? What were their responsibilities? Did they have a say at all?
5. **Customs and Dress** – What were some traditional customs? Were they based on religion, the environment, Rites of Passage, etc? What did they wear? Were their special costumes for certain events?
6. **RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT**
7. **Belief System** - What were the religious beliefs and practices, rituals, values?
   1. The Gods – Part of the religion centered around a number of Gods. In this one, look only at the mythology side of this – who were the Gods and what were they responsible for?
8. **Justice** – what were the rules of the land (generally) and how/who enforced? (see Hammerabi's Code)
9. **Politics** – Who was in charge? How were they elected, chosen? What kind of country, city structure did they have and what was the power structure?
10. **War** – How was war conducted, who fought and why?
11. **AGRICULTURE AND TRADE**
12. **Water Systems and food supply**– Control of water was crucial for agriculture and thus their entire way of life. How did they prevent flooding, keep a long term water supply over dry periods, survive droughts?
13. **Specialization** – What jobs were considered more important? What items did people make and trade with other citizens and cities? Any areas known for certain types of goods.
14. **INNOVATION**
15. **Buildings** – What architecture did they have, what did form do for function and livability? Discuss both high end and functional housing.
16. **Inventions** – Give 3 important innovations that occurred to keep track of or improve daily life? Think beyond anything that was mentioned yet.
17. **Celestial Developments and purpose –** explore the meaning and importance of the stars.

Work Together, Be Creative, and present a Clear and concise presentation.