

Visiting Mesopotamia

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Grade Level (Req.): 6th grade	Content Area (Req.): Social Studies- Ancient Civilizations	Unit (Opt.): Mesopotamia and Early Civilizations
<p>Connections to Other Disciplines (Opt.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Writing quality sentences in a friendly letter ● ● 		
Time Frame (Req.): 4 days	<p>Goal (Req.): The goal of this lesson is to have the students create a postcard as if they were visiting the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia. They will describe the geography and it's importance to everyday life in Mesopotamia.</p>	
	<p>Objective (Req.): Students will design a postcard using primary knowledge of previous classroom discussions of the geographical importance of Mesopotamia.</p>	
<p>Materials Needed (Req.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notes about geographical factors discussed in Mesopotamia chapter ● Ipads/technology ● 5x7 notecards ● Colored pencils ● ● ● 	<p>New Vocabulary (Opt.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● floodplain ● silt ● semiarid ● surplus ● irrigation 	
<p>Anticipatory Set/Introduction [Inquiry Question is required] (Req.): How can you describe to a friend the geographical importance of Mesopotamia on a postcard. As an introduction we will discuss the major rivers in Iowa and their importance to our geography and the influence on our state in the past, present and future.</p>		
<p>Instructional Sequence/Procedure (Req.):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin by discussing what the Mississippi river does for us in the past, present and future. Give students a few minutes to use google Earth to look up what the geography around the Mississippi actually looks like. Discuss aloud their thoughts. 2. Discuss the location of Mesopotamia using the maps located in our Social studies curriculum books. (Can use online resources here as well) Talk about what they see and make some inferences on what does it all mean. 3. Discuss and lecture about the land, climate, water sources and their vocabulary. 4. Have students analyze how people would have used these geographical features to improve their environment and create a civilization. 5. Discuss pros and cons of moving on or staying in Mesopotamia. 		

6. Have students create a postcard as if they were visiting Ancient Mesopotamia. Include what they “see” and how they live. Include a picture of Mesopotamia.

7. Assess using a rubric
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Formative Evaluation (Req.):
 Provide students a checklist to insure they are putting in the required information.
 Also have students pair up to proofread each other's writing.

Assessment (Req.): Rubric with emphasis based on information related to topic as well as the design of the postcard and proper writing technique.

Iowa Core Curriculum Standards Used (Req.):

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- Social Studies 6-8 Geography 2- Understand how geographic and human characteristics create culture and define regions.
- Social Studies 6-8 Geography 3- Understand how human factors and the distribution of resources affect the development of society and the movement of populations.
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Common Core Curriculum Standards Used (Opt.):

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NGS Standards Used (Req.):

- The processes, patterns, and functions of human settlement
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- How to apply geography to interpret the past
- The physical and human characteristics of places
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<p>Five Themes of Geography Used (Req.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place • Human Environment Interaction • Click here to enter text. • • 	<p>School District Standards and Benchmarks (Opt.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
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21st Century Universal Constructs (Opt.):
 Creativity
 Accountability and Productivity

- Other Disciplinary Standards (Opt.):
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Other Essential Information (Opt.):

- Other Resources (Opt.):
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