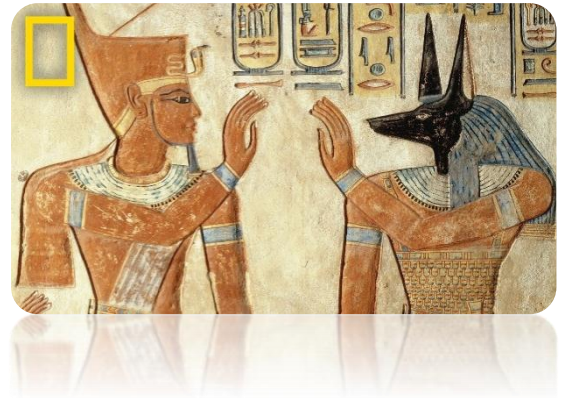


Mesopotamia:

- One of the first civilizations of the world
- Made up of a few consecutive civilizations located in the area of present-day Iraq
- The societies there followed a pattern of settlement and conquest
- Sumerians lived there at 500 BCE
- Later, other groups conquered the Sumerians:
 - Akkadians
 - Babylonians
 - Assyrians
 - Persians

**Egypt:**

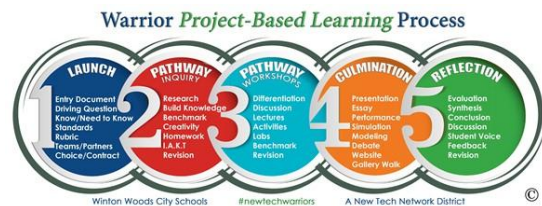
- Another of the initial, early civilizations, but they existed 3500 years after Mesopotamia civilization began and on another continent. They were geographically close to each other, though.
- They built the now-famous pyramids, an archeological structure that still stands today, demonstrating superior engineering skills.
- Though they were close geographically, the patterns of nature in Egypt were far less chaotic, so the people there believed their gods were kind and generous towards humanity, which was not the case for the Mesopotamia people.

**Project Based Learning:**

You will study both civilizations for specific information that, as a whole, gives us a broad picture of what it was like to live in that location, time, and with those values.

At the end of your study of both groups, you'll have a

number of Project Activities to choose from as a summative assessment. Some of the potential projects include, but are not limited to, the following:



- Doing a **debate** on which civilization was the better one overall
- Having a **discussion/debate** on which civilization you would have rather lived in
- Creating a **presentation** of which civilization contributed more overall to our modern day lives globally and nationally (in Canada)
- Making a **expository video** to show why each civilization succeeded or failed
- Create **biographies/cartoons** of people of different circumstances from each society

To Start:

- **Alone or with a Partner/Team?** You will research a list of elements for both civilizations, but you can decide if you want to do this work on your own or with others. Consider how you best learn and whether you have been successful or not working with a partner of choice in the past.
- **Study One and Then Another?** You can research one civilization fully first and then the other. If you can think of a benefit to doing it, though, you could also research each element from both civilizations and study them that way. Ex: Study transportation of both Mesopotamia vs Egypt together.
- ****Keep track of your sources**** If you're collecting your information digitally, you can gather hyperlinks for your sources. You could also keep a separate Sources Journal to track the website names you visited to gain information. (Even if you don't use details from a website, if you visited it you should include it in your resource list.)
- **Avoid Copy and Paste!** You internalize information better when you handwrite it or type it out yourself. It is also better if you can summarize or synthesize (summary and combining) the information you read to make your own meaning.
- **How detailed should you be?** Consider this before you start. You want to be comprehensive so you can develop a full understanding of each civilization and what it was like to live there. You don't want to collect too much or too little information.

Civilization Characteristics to Study: from your research, develop a full understanding of each of the following elements for both Mesopotamia and Egypt.

1. Geography:
 - a. Location and what could be developed on the land there
 - b. Water systems/rivers and how they contributed to their society
 - c. Why would they have decided to settle their civilization there?
2. Economics:
 - a. Farming
 - b. Trade
 - c. Transportation
3. Social Structure/Organization of their Power Authority
 - a. How were people ruled?
 - b. How was it decided who the rulers would be?
 - c. What was the social structure from the bottom (those with the least power) to the highest point (those with the most power)
 - d. Was there slavery? Who became slaves?
 - e. Did women have much power over their own lives?
4. Politics:
 - a. What type of political structure did they have?

- b. How did that system affect the lifestyle of the citizens and their ability to make their own choices?
 - c. What evidence is there of what their justice system was like?
 - d. Were people born into power or could they rise to it?
5. Cities and Housing:
- a. What were homes like?
 - b. Could anyone own a home?
 - c. Did families live together in large groups (grandparents and parents and children?)
 - d. Who built the homes?
6. Religion and Spiritual Beliefs:
- a. What type of Gods did they believe in? one or many?
 - b. What were their Gods like? Giving/loving or harsh/had to be appeased to be kind
 - c. What reasons did the people have for their perspective of their Gods?
 - d. Did their religion have any overlap to their political system?
7. Technology, Advancements, or Tools of their Civilization:
- a. What evidence is there of any writing system developed by them?
 - b. What was their education system like? On what topics?
 - c. Are there any special contributions they made to the arts? Sculptures or images?
 - d. Did they develop any methods of medicine?
 - e. Any other contributions they're "known for"?