TRIBE TASKS

Centralized Government Why did the first cities need organized governments?

1. Write a speech to persuade the farmers of the Fertile Crescent to work together to control the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Use strong language. Your job is to persuade! Include: A. Why do the Tigris and Euphrates rivers need to be controlled? B. How do you propose to control them? C. How do you propose to coordinate this large-scale activity?

2. Write an acrostic poem using the words organized government. The acrostic must refer to the Task and Fate Facts information and accurately reflect the origin and development of organized governments.

3. Draw a poster that shows how the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers affect farming. On the before part of the poster show the dangers that rivers pose to farming without human control. On the after part, show why controlling the rivers benefits the people of the Fertile Crescent.

4. Make a model of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and show the means that the first governments used to control the rivers.

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)

Organized Religion What kind of religion was practiced in the first civilizations?

1. Write the lyrics to a song (use any music) which praises the religious practice of polytheism (many gods).
2. Write an acrostic poem using the word *polytheism*. Make sure that the acrostic refers to the *Task and Fate Facts* information and explains/describes polytheism.

3. Draw a religious symbol (poster) which reflects the basic beliefs of polytheistic religion.

4. Build a symbol that reflects the basic beliefs of polytheistic religion.

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)

**Job Specialization and Social Classes**

What kinds of jobs did people specialize in when ancient cities developed?

1. Write at least five classified (newspaper) advertisements for specialized jobs performed in ancient cities.

2. Write an acrostic poem using the words *job specialization*. Make sure that the acrostic refers to the *Task and Fate Facts* information and involves terms that reflect job specialization.

3. Make a pamphlet showing at least four different examples of job specialization in the ancient world. (Fold a paper in half and illustrate all four sides.)

4. Make a model (your original work) of the types of goods created by artisans in ancient cities.

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)
TRIBE TASKS

Arts, Architecture, and Public Works
What did the art and literature in ancient civilizations attempt to reflect?

1. As an artist in an ancient civilization, write a letter-to-the-editor that describes why art is important to the civilization and why it should be supported.

2. Write an acrostic poem using the words art and literature. Make sure that the acrostic refers to the Task and Fate Facts information and involves terms that reflect ancient art and literature.

3. Draw a mural (a series of pictures telling a story or revolving around a central theme) which demonstrates the function of art and literature in ancient societies.

4. Create a plaque that commemorates the arts of ancient civilizations.

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)

Writing Why was writing invented in ancient civilizations?

1. Create a dialogue between a government official and priest which describes what their jobs were like before the invention of writing.

2. Write an acrostic poem using the words invention of writing. Make sure that the acrostic refers to the Task and Fate Facts information and uses words or terms that were important to the invention of writing.

3. Draw a picture that shows the problems ancient civilizations
had that called for the invention of writing.

4. Build a model of an ancient grain warehouse. Show the grain being shipped in and out of the warehouse.

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)

**VILLAGE TASKS**

**Centralized Government** Who was usually chosen to lead ancient governments?

1. Write a want-ad advertisement for a government leader. Include at least seven traits or skills required of an ancient ruler.

2. Write a diamond poem that describes how rulers were chosen in ancient governments.

3. Draw a four-panel cartoon that shows how ancient leaders were chosen.

4. Create a model that shows why the people of city-states turned to war leaders for protection.

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)

**Organized Religion** What did people in ancient civilizations believe that their gods and goddesses would do for them?

1. Write a hymn or prayer that reflects what you believe the gods will do for your city-state.

2. Write a diamond poem that describes what ancient people believed that their gods and goddesses would do for them.

3. Create a poster that shows what would happen if the gods
were pleased with the city-state and what would happen if they were displeased.

4. Create a dance that thanks the gods for all that they do for the city-state.

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)

**Job Specialization and Social Classes How were people ranked in ancient civilizations?**

1. Create a dialogue between an artisan and a peasant farmer. Have both describe what they do for society. Have the artisan argue why it is proper that he has a higher social ranking than does the farmer.

2. Write a diamond poem that describes how people were ranked in ancient societies.

3. Create an illustrated pamphlet that shows the order of the social classes in the ancient world.

4. Build a pyramid model that reflects the social classes of ancient civilization (highest on top, lowest on bottom)

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)

**Arts, Architecture, and Public Works What did the temples and palaces of ancient civilizations attempt to reflect?**

1. As the ruler, write a letter to your architect. Explain how you want your new temple built. (What should it represent and what kind of feeling should it generate among the people?)

2. Write a diamond poem that describes what the temples and palaces of ancient civilizations attempted to reflect.
3. Draw a floor plan or blueprint for an ancient temple or palace.

4. Create a model of an ancient temple or palace.

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)

Writing What was the first writing like?

1. Write an essay that describes at least 10 ways your life would be different if the Sumerians had not invented writing.

2. Create a diamond poem that describes what the first writing was like.

3. Copy two paragraphs of any Task and Fate Facts essay using picture symbols instead of words.

4. Make a model of a clay tablet with cuneiform writing.

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)

CITY-STATE TASKS

Centralized Government Who did leaders claim gave them the right to rule and how was ruled passed?

1. Have a ruler write a speech to his subjects explaining why they should obey him completely and obey his son when it is the son’s turn to rule.

2. Write a dialogue between an ancient ruler and his son. The dialogue must include the following words and terms: absolute power, authority, gods and goddesses, city-states, food supply, defense, divine right, leadership, worshipped and hereditary.
3. You are an artist hired by the ruler. Draw a poster that visually explains to his subjects why they should not question his authority.

4. Create a medallion that displays the authority of the ruler.

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)

Organized Religion
How did priests and worshippers seek to gain the favor of the gods and ensure divine help?

1. As a priest, write a sermon to worshippers that states the importance of pleasing the gods. Give examples of how the people can please the gods.

2. Write a dialogue between an ancient priest and worshipper. Include the following words or terms: duty, ceremonies, rituals, gods favor, dance, sing, pray, sacrifices, worship, prayers, important and city-state.

3. Create an illustrated guide instructing worshippers how to please the gods. (Fold a paper in half and illustrate all four sides.)

4. Create a song and dance intended to please the gods.

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)

Job Specialization and Social Classes Describe the social classes of ancient civilizations.

1. As a peasant farmer, write a letter to your ruler describing your feelings about being so low on the social hierarchy. Be sure to describe why you think your job is important and compare it to the importance of the other jobs in the social hierarchy.
2. Write a dialogue between two people who had different ranks in the social hierarchy (you choose—identify them through their jobs). The dialogue must contain the following words or terms: hierarchies, systems of rank, government officials, priests, ruling family, specialized jobs, cities, merchants, artisans, jobs, construction, defense, entertainment, peasant farmers, food surplus and slaves.

3. Draw a mural that depicts the social hierarchy in ancient civilizations.

4. Create a model that shows the social hierarchy in the ancient world.

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)

**CITY-STATE TASKS**

**Arts, Architecture, and Public Works** What kinds of public works projects were used to ensure a steady food supply?

1. As a governmental official, write out your plan to ensure that the city-state maintains a steady food supply. Include why your plan is important and what the government must do to implement your plan.

2. Write a dialogue between the ruler and the government official in charge of public works. The dialogue must contain the following words or terms: society, benefit, water, dikes, dams, government, maintenance, success, irrigation project, farmland, food supply, and taxes.

3. Create an illustrated government pamphlet that describes how public works benefit the people of ancient cities.
4. Create a model that shows the kind of public works projects done by ancient civilizations.

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)

**Writing Who were scribes and how were they trained?**

1. Write a want-ad advertisement for a scribe. Describe the kinds of jobs scribes may do and what type of training and experience is required for the job.

2. Write a dialogue between a teacher of scribes and a student. Include these words or terms: grain harvests, cuneiform, religious ceremonies, contracts, treaties, laws, read, write, demanding, service and great demand.

3. Create an illustrated poster advertising a school for scribes.

4. Build a monument that displays the important functions that scribes performed for ancient civilizations.

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)

**EMPIRE TASKS**

**Centralized Government What functions did ancient governments perform?**

1. Write a diary entry for an ancient ruler. Describe what your day was like. (Describe the various functions you had to perform as the head of the government).

2. Create a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the functions of ancient governments with the government of the United States.
3. Create a cartoon strip (four or more panels) which shows the functions of ancient governments.

4. Create a diorama that displays the functions of ancient governments.

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)

**Organized Religion What kinds of functions did priests in ancient civilizations perform?**

1. Have a priest write a letter home explaining why he or she too busy to visit parents as often as they would like.

2. Create a Venn Diagram comparing and contrasting the duties of a priest/priestess in Mesopotamia with the duties of a pastor/priest today.

3. Illustrate a training manual describing to a new priest the types of tasks he or she will perform. (Fold a paper in half and complete all four sides.)

4. Create a model showing the duties of ancient priests.

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)

**Job Specialization and Social Classes Describe slavery in ancient civilizations.**

1. Write a letter that you hope to have smuggled to your family describing your life as a slave.

2. Create a Venn Diagram comparing slavery and the treatment of slaves in the ancient world with any other form of slavery in any period of history (e.g., forced labor by adults or children in modern times).
3. Draw a warning poster illustrating the two main ways that people were enslaved in the ancient world.

4. Create a memorial for the slaves who contributed much of the physical labor in early civilizations.

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)

**Art, Architecture, and Public Works**

What kinds of public works were used to ensure the defense of the city?

1. Write a letter to the editor that describes how you feel about the money spent by the government to build a massive wall around the city.

3. Create a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the development of public works projects in the Fertile Crescent with public works projects in the United States.

3. Draw a poster that shows the citizens of the city-state the benefits of building of a defensive wall around the city.

4. Build a model of a defensive wall around an ancient city.

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)

**Writing**

What types of functions did scribes perform for ancient civilizations?

1. As a scribe, write a diary entry that describes a typical day at work for you.

2. Create a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the functions scribes performed in the ancient world with the job of a reporter today.

3. Draw a cartoon strip (at least four panels) showing a typical
4. Create a product produced by a scribe (contract, treaty, laws, etc.)

5. An idea of your choice (per instructor approval)