What would life be like if there was no such thing as exploration? What if no one ever ventured beyond their neighborhood? What would we know about the world we live in? Well…probably very little! But we don’t have to worry about that, because exploration has played a major role in learning about our Earth for centuries. As a matter of fact, through exploration, we have found that the earliest known civilization was a place called Mesopotamia. We would have never found out about Mesopotamia had no one ever gone exploring.

Now it is your turn to go exploring. You will embark on a cyber-journey into ancient Mesopotamia. You will explore this ‘cradle of civilization’ to understand how Mesopotamia has affected the world you live in.

You will each pick a role and search around Mesopotamia and find out important information. You will come away with the knowledge that Mesopotamia has changed or affected your world in some way.

Good luck and have fun!

**Task**

As part of this Cyber Exploration, you will be asked to take on 4 different roles for this venture. You will journey back in time to ancient Mesopotamia. You are to discover and bring back information, about this ancient civilization. Your final paper/project will demonstrate how this ancient civilization contributed to our modern world. You may be as creative as you like when compiling all of the information you uncover.

What?

I don't get it?

What do you mean?

Huh...so what am I supposed to do, again?

**STEP 1**. For the first step you will need to follow each of the directions very carefully.

**STEP 2**. Once you have read everything, you should begin doing one of the four roles. You group members should pick one of each role. Each of the 4 roles will provide you with instructions and web pages for you to explore. As you explore through each role, you will need to have a pencil and paper to keep an ongoing journal of all the information you have gathered for each role. Record the **QUESTION** along with the answer to it.

**STEP 3**. You will meet with all of the people who have the same role as you and share information. If you are missing information now is the time to get it.

**STEP 4.** You will return to you group and share all the information from each role.

**STEP 5.** Hand in your paper. You should have answers to all the questions from all **FOUR** roles

**The Geographer**

For your first job in cyber Mesopotamia you will take on the role of a

Geographer. It will be your responsibility to come up with the following information (REMEMBER: When you are answering the following questions, respond using YOUR OWN WORDS!)

1)Explain where Mesopotamia was located. What are the names of the two rivers where Mesopotamia lay? What does Mesopotamia mean?

2)What type of climate is in Mesopotamia?

4)What present-day country would be the location of Ancient Mesopotamia?

5)How far is Mesopotamia from our school (approximately)?

**Internet Links**

Map of Mesopotamia:

<http://www.mesopotamia.co.uk/geography/explore/exp_set.html>

Map of Mesopotamia:

<http://www.fsmitha.com/h1/map01mes.htm>

Geography and Climate:

<http://www.sron.nl/~jheise/akkadian/mesopotamia.html>

Distance Calculator:

<http://www.mapcrow.info/>

The Fertile Crescent and Meaning

<http://www.mrdowling.com/603mesopotamia.html>

Modern Map of Mesopotamia:

Go back to the handout bin and look at the image there for a map!

**The Historian**

You will now take on the role of a Historian on this Mesopotamia

Expedition. It will be your responsibility to come up with the following information (REMEMBER: When you are answering the following questions,

respond using YOUR OWN WORDS!)

1) List the names of the civilizations which made Mesopotamia their home a long time ago.

2) What are the 7 characteristics of a civilization? (HINT: We have taken notes on this already)

3) Explain the importance of Hammurabi.

4) Write down any 5 different Hammurabi Laws that you find interesting and include the translation of it from Yale Law School.

5) Explain who Gilgamesh was. Retell his story IN YOUR OWN WORDS!

**Internet Links**

Quick History

<http://www.mesopotamia.co.uk/time/home_set.html>

Who made Mesopotamia their home

<http://history-world.org/mesopotamia_a_place_to_start.htm>

Hammurabi:

<http://mesopotamia.mrdonn.org/hammurabi.html>

Hammurabi and Yale:

<http://www.phillipmartin.info/hammurabi/hammurabi_codeindex.htm>

Gilgamesh:

<http://mesopotamia.mrdonn.org/gilgamesh.html>

Gilgamesh:

<http://www.mesopotamia.co.uk/geography/story/sto_set.html>

**The Agriculturalist**

You are now going to be an Agriculturalist on this Mesopotamia journey. It will be your responsibility to come up with the following information

(REMEMBER: When you are answering the following questions, respond using

YOUR OWN WORDS!)

1) Describe the farming and agriculture of Mesopotamia.

2) Explain how poisoned fields contributed to the collapse of Mesopotamia.

3) What did Mesopotamians eat?

4) Explain why civilizations like those from Mesopotamia, would live close to bodies of water.

5) Click on the below internet link on Farming in Mesopotamia. Once you have read about the farming year, explain the steps it would take to farm each year in Mesopotamia. (USE YOUR OWN WORDS)

**Internet Links**

Farming and Agriculture

<http://mesopotamia.mrdonn.org/agriculture.html>

Poisoned fields:

<http://www.learner.org/interactives/collapse/mesopotamia.html>

Mesopotamian Cuisine:

<http://hearthmoonblog.com/cuisine-of-mesopotamia/>

Civilizations close to water

<http://www.mrdowling.com/603-civilization.html>

Farming in Mespotamia:

<http://www.mesopotamia.co.uk/geography/challenge/cha_set.html>

**The Archaeologist**

You are the Archaeologist on this Mesopotamia Expedition. It will be your responsibility to come up with the following information (REMEMBER: When you are answering the following questions, respond using YOUR OWN WORDS!)

1) Explain one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world known as the 'Hanging

Gardens of Babylon'

2) Illustrate and label 4 inventions from Mesopotamia. Explain the importance of one these ancient inventions.

3) What is cuneiform? Which civilization invented it? Spell your name using Cuneiform.

4) What are the different classes of people in ancient Mesopotamia?

5) What is a Ziggurat? What was its purpose? Include a picture

**Internet Links**

Powerpoint presentation on the Hanging Gardens of Babylon:

<http://presentations.pppst.com/7wonders-gardens.ppt#301,1,The Hanging Gardens>

Inventions:

<http://mesopotamia.mrdonn.org/inventions.html>

Cuneiform:

<https://watsoneastwoldblog.wordpress.com/2010/02/24/write-your-name-in-cuneiform-just-like-a-mesapotamian/>

Classes of people:

<http://mesopotamia.mrdonn.org/classes.html>

Ziggurats:

<http://mesopotamia.mrdonn.org/ziggurats.html>