6th Grade Writing Project

**Quarter #1 - Shared Reading and Writing**

First Civilization Activity from the “Hands on History” book from Ancient Civilizations Activities by Shell Education



READING #1 - Nomads vs Village - Mid-September

\*Textbook - page 14 from the Hands on History book.

\*Website - <http://www.kidspast.com/world-history/0008-tools-and-the-stone-age.php>

WRITING #1 - Nomads vs Village

Complete the pre-reading component of this activity as a class as the common reading for all 6th grade SS classrooms. Following this reading, complete the 1st Civilization Activity. As part of the post activity follow-up activities, students would complete an argumentative writing piece from below.

This writing piece would be a precursor to argumentative writing. The question “Would you rather live as a village or a nomad?” would be posed to the students to answer. Students would need to create a claim. (Example - was it easier to live alone or was survival easier if living in a group?) Students would need to support reasons with evidence for their claim. Reasons could be from their experiences in the activity, from the reading or from additional research. Research options are provided below.

Research - To support their claim, students could conduct some additional research to complete their post-activity writing.

Research options =

<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/civilization/?ar_a=1>

<http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/legacy/highschool/socstud/global2_review/start_of_civilization.htm>

<http://www.helium.com/items/304925-the-importance-of-river-valleys-to-ancient-civilizations>

<http://www.helium.com/items/306667-the-importance-of-river-valleys-to-ancient-civilizations>

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READING #2 - Archaeology / Early Humans - Late September



textbook - pages 26 - 33 - “How Archaeologists Study the Past” - artifact, fossil

textbook - pages 34 - 37 - “A Bone from a Dry Sea” - use with first website below

textbook - pages 38 - 43 - “How Historians Study the Past” - primary and secondary sources

textbook - pages 50 - 55 - “Hunters and Gathers”

textbook - pages 65 - 69 - “The First Communities”

\*\*As part of the textbook reading, the Keynote “Nonfiction Features“ would be used to cover how to read and utilize a textbook. This is a component of the Common Core requirements for Social Studies.

website - <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/ancient/stone-age-toolkit.html>

website - <http://www.becominghuman.org/>

webiste - <http://mesopotamia.lib.uchicago.edu/interactives/index.html>

WRITING #2 - Archaeology / Early Humans

Students will answer one of these questions following the readings from above. Answers may be completed with a partner or alone. Final answers may be in written form, used as class discussions, used as journal entries, completed on a keynote, or the teacher may provide other options for students to utilize to complete these questions.

Why did Human Technology advance?

How did the growth of technology change how humans lived on the earth?

How did the landforms of an area impact the growth of the civilization?

Explanatory Writing -

Explain the development of civilization from nomadic to village life.

Argumentative Writing -

Farming was the most significant invention in human history.

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**Quarter #1 - Shared Reading and Writing**

READING #3 - Late October

The Origins of Civilization in the River Civilizations of Egypt, China, India, and Mesopotamia

\*GRAPES Keynote that introduces the use of the GRAPES acronym to analyze the civilizations that we study.

\*Nextext, Stories in History ”The Ancient World”, pages 9 - 12



\*Kids Discover - 4 sets, one on each Civilization of Egypt, China, India, and Mesopotamia

\*UK Museum Websites -

Egypt: <http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/menu.html>

Mesopotamia: <http://www.mesopotamia.co.uk/>

[India:](http://www.ancientindia.co.uk) <http://www.ancientindia.co.uk/>

China : <http://www.ancientchina.co.uk/menu.html>

WRITING #3 -

Students will answer one of these questions following the readings from above. Answers may be completed with a partner or alone. Final answers may be in written form, used as journal entries, completed on a keynote, or the teacher may provide other options for students to utilize to complete these questions.

\*Why did civilization begin in these four river valleys?

\*How did geography impact the formation of these four river civilizations?

\*What were the common elements of each civilization’s geography that helped civilizations develop?