Visiting Mesopotamia

K. Schmidt
Clear Lake Middle School Clear Lake, IA

A. Garman
Clear Lake Middle School Clear Lake, IA

Copyright ©[2012?] K. Schmidt and A. Garman

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License.
Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uni.edu/oermaterials

Part of the Geography Commons

Recommended Citation
https://scholarworks.uni.edu/oermaterials/245

This Lesson Plans is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Open Educational Resources by an authorized administrator of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uni.edu.
# Visiting Mesopotamia

**Created by:** K. Schmidt/A. Garman-Clear Lake Middle School Clear Lake, IA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level (Req.):</th>
<th>Content Area (Req.): Social Studies- Ancient Civilizations</th>
<th>Unit (Opt.): Mesopotamia and Early Civilizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th grade</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Connections to Other Disciplines (Opt.):**
- Writing quality sentences in a friendly letter
- 
- 

**Time Frame (Req.):** 4 days

**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 its importance to everyday life in Mesopotamia.

**Objective (Req.):** Students will design a postcard using primary knowledge of previous classroom discussions of the geographical importance of Mesopotamia.

**Materials Needed (Req.):**
- Notes about geographical factors discussed in Mesopotamia chapter
- Ipads/technology
- 5x7 notecards
- Colored pencils
- 
- 

**New Vocabulary (Opt.):**
- floodplain
- silt
- semiarid
- surplus
- irrigation

**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.

**Instructional Sequence/Procedure (Req.):**
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 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

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formative Evaluation (Req.):</th>
<th>Assessment (Req.): Rubric with emphasis based on information related to topic as well as the design of the postcard and proper writing technique.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide students a checklist to insure they are putting in the required information. Also have students pair up to proofread each other’s writing.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Iowa Core Curriculum Standards Used (Req.):  
Click here to enter text.

- 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.

Common Core Curriculum Standards Used (Opt.):

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

NGS Standards Used (Req.):

- The processes, patterns, and functions of human settlement
- How to apply geography to interpret the past
- The physical and human characteristics of places

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Five Themes of Geography Used (Req.):</th>
<th>School District Standards and Benchmarks (Opt.):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Place</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Human Environment Interaction</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- [Click here to enter text.]</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**21st Century Universal Constructs (Opt.):**
- Creativity
- Accountability and Productivity

**Other Disciplinary Standards (Opt.):**

**Other Essential Information (Opt.):**

**Other Resources (Opt.):**