Final Project

Early Civilizations Museum exhibit

**Directions:** you will create a **museum exhibit** to illustrate the history and culture of one of the following ancient civilizations:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Babylonia:**  (2350-650 BCE)  The Babylonians used the innovations of the Sumerians, added to them, and built an empire that gave the world, among other things, codified laws, a tower that soared above the earth, and one of the Seven Wonders of the World. | **Egypt:**  (2650-300 BCE)  The sand of the Nile River Valley hold many clues about one of the most mysterious, progressive, and artistic ancient civilizations. | **Indus Valley:** (3000-530 BCE)  While other civilizations were devoting huge amounts of time and resources to the rich, the supernatural, and the dead, Indus Valley inhabitants were taking a practical approach to supporting the common, secular, living people. | **Shang Dynasty (China):**  (1750-1050 BCE)  It was during the Shang dynasty that bronze working became common. Bronze vessels for drinking were used in ritual ceremonies, while bronze chariots and axes were used in battle. As the metal was associated with royalty, the tombs of Shang kings contained hundreds of small bronze objects, including hairpins. |
| **Vikings:**  (800-1100 CE)  A vast number of Scandinavians left their homelands to seek their fortunes elsewhere. These seafaring warriors began raiding coastal sites. Over the next 3 centuries they would leave their mark as pirates, raiders, traders, and settlers on much of the European continent. | **Mongols:**  (1400-1600 CE)  Being a warrior in feudal Japan was more than just a job. It was a way of life. The collapse of aristocratic rule ushered in a new age of chaos in which military might dictated who governed and who followed. | **Franks:**  (350-850 CE)  The Franks provide the dynasty which can be seen as the first royal house of France. From them, in origin one of the Germanic tribes, the word France derives. | **Byzantines:**  (330-1450 CE)  This was a continuation of the Roman Empire in the Greek-speaking eastern part of the Mediterranean. Christian in nature, it was perennially at war with the Muslims. |
| **Mali:**  (1230-1600 CE)  What would life be like if a magician ruled the land? The history of ancient Mali gives us some hints. The founder of this West African kingdom was well known among his people as a man of magic with more than a few tricks up his sleeve. | **Greece:**  (1700-30 BCE)  The high mountains in this region made it difficult for people to travel or communicate. Therefore, each polis developed independently and often, very different from one another. Athens and Sparta are two good examples of city-states that contrasted greatly with each other. | **Rome:**  (750 BCE- 450 CE)  The Romans built an empire of gigantic proportions. At its height, it encompassed nearly the entire European continent as well as parts of the Middle East and Africa. | **Assyrians:**  (2000-600 BCE)  Assyria is chiefly remembered for its military prowess, advances in weaponry, and meticulously recorded conquests. |
| **Phoenicians:**  (1100-50 BCE)  A fairly small group of traders and merchants known as the Phoenicians created the foundation for the modern English alphabet and other alphabets. | **Han Dynasty (China):**  (200 BCE- 220 CE)  The Han dynasty immediately restored feudal lords to their positions of power. The Chinese people prospered in peace. Paper and porcelain were invented, as was the wheelbarrow. | **Gupta:**  (240-550 CE)  The Gupta period of India was not characterized by enormous material wealth or by elaborate trade activity. It was defined by creativity. Flourishing arts, fabulous literature, and stupendous scholars are just a few of the things that marked the period. | **Aztec:**  (1250-1500 CE)  Huitzilopochtl, God of the Sun, was the Aztec principal god. He had an insatiable appetite for blood. Under his urging, the Aztecs rose from a band of primitive farmers to become the bloodiest civilization of the early Americas. The Aztecs sacrificed tens of thousands of victims each year. |
| **Incas:**  (1200 BCE- 1500 CE)  The INca called their empire *Tahuantinsuyu*, or Land of the Four Quarters. Within its domain were rich coastal settlements, high mountain valleys, rain-drenched tropical forests and the driest of deserts. It was the largest empire on earth at that time. | **Mayans:**  (900-200 BCE)  The Maya were a collection of people clustered in city-states. What united them was an idea. For the Maya the world of ordinary living and the Otherworld populated by gods, ancestors, and monstrous things, were equally real. There existed three regions, intricately bound together: the heavens, the earth, and the waters of the Underworld. | **Persians:**  (550 BCE-600 CE)  Rather than destroy local economies for their own selfish gain, the Persians worked to increase trade throughout their kingdom. They standardized weights, developed official coinage, and implemented universal laws. | **Ghana:**  (830-1235 CE)  Between the 9th and 11th centuries, the kingdom of Ghana was so rich that its dogs wore golden collars, and its horses, which were adorned with silken rope halters, slept on plush carpets. Based on animal luxuries alone, it is no wonder that foreigners touted Ghana’s kings as the richest men in the world. |

Your goal is to convince visitors to the museum that their civilization made the greatest contribution to the world above and beyond that of the other civilizations.

**You will need:**

1. Visual artifacts
2. Written information
3. Video: Documentary, music, news report, etc.
4. Interactive components: Games, technology, artifacts, questions to explore, etc.

**Topics you must include:**

1. Geography:
   1. A map of the extent of your civilization, including important cities, rivers, mountain ranges, and borders of your civilization.
   2. Explanation of the role the environment played in your civilization (natural defense, economics)
2. Political Systems:
   1. The kind of government used in your civilization (including kind of ruler, what system of government was used, and any notable rulers)
   2. the timeline of your civilization (begin and end)
3. Religion:
   1. The religion of your civilization, including gods and rituals

1. Economics:
   1. Natural resources of your civilization
   2. Trade partners
   3. Sources of income

1. Culture:
   1. A breakdown of the society hierarchy found in your society
   2. A summary of activities of one member of your civilization
   3. Visual and Musical Arts
   4. Marriage and Family
   5. Foods
2. Technology:
   1. Inventions created by your civilization
   2. How your civilization used science to advance knowledge through collective learning
   3. A sample of the written language used in your civilization