Culture Hearths: Undiscovered Country

**Background**

This unit has been all about patterns. Ancient civilizations were born in Culture Hearths. Those culture hearths shared similar characteristics: access to natural resources need for life. Those civilizations faced similar problems, and created solutions that worked.

We have also seen exceptions to our patterns. The Incas did not write. The Mesopotamian people could over rule a king. The Chinese built a giant wall. We *now* see that patterns occur throughout history, but that there *are* exceptions to every rule.

**Objective**

It is time to put your wisdom to the test. You have studied how six ancient civilizations dealt with some fundamental problems. Now you will research a new civilization, **either the Mediterranean or West African culture hearths**, and find out how they attempted to address the same problems with solutions that could work.

Along the way, you will demonstrate your understanding of how culture hearths developed and how civilizations grew and developed.

**Timeline**

You will have four days to complete and submit your proposal, your research.

**Details**

* Mission Statement-This is a simple, clear statement of goals. How will you or your team strive to work? While ancient civilizations probably did not create a mission statement, they would have had a mission. It was their purpose or goal. Begin by creating your mission statement. What is the goal of your research? How will it be done? This must be put into 1 clear sentence.
* Location-You need to describe the physical location of your civilization. This is tricky. Which physical features were important to them and why? This must be explained in a 5-7 sentence paragraph.
* Government- Your civilization had a form of governance. Some laws and rules. Remember, it must be described in some detail. How did it fit the mold we saw the others create? How did it diverge? It should be explained in a 7-10 sentence paragraph.
* Achievements-Every civilization builds monuments to honor the things that are important to them. Ziggurats for the gods, Great Wall for the enemies. Our city has the Soldier and Sailors Monument and Lucas Oil Stadium. Each tells us about something about priorities. Your civilization must have built a monument. What does it look like? What does it honor? Where is it? Why did they build it? This should be explained in a 5-7 sentence paragraph.

**Format**

Your team may decide how to submit your research. Below are some suggested formats, but feel free to ‘think outside the box’:

* PowerPoint of Google Slides
* Prezi
* Poster board
* 3-D model
* Sketch book
* Epic poem
* Composed song
* Edited essay

**Rubrics**

See the following pages for the rubric you should use to evaluate your work.



