

Name: _____

Grade 10 Global Studies

The Scholars' Academy

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Social Sciences and the Study of Mesopotamia

As students of history, we must understand the origins of civilization. To study the story of human beings, we must understand two major time periods, prehistory and history. In order to understand prehistory, historians must be able to rely on prehistoric archaeologists and anthropologists to understand the beginnings of human civilizations.

Prehistoric Archaeologists are individuals who study the time period before written records existed. Since written records did not exist, they often are called on to assign names to the civilizations and cultures they study (Ex. Egypt, Mesopotamia, Indus River Valley Civilizations). Since there are no written records, there is much debate in this field of social science.

Physical anthropologists are social scientists who study how humans in ancient civilizations changed the world around them. Cultural anthropologists studying prehistoric times focus on how items are used by civilizations and passed down in cultures. An example of an item that might interest a cultural anthropologist would be a mold used to make clay bricks.

Research the prehistoric civilization in Mesopotamia and identify the facts we know about this civilization from prehistoric archaeologists, physical anthropologists, and cultural anthropologists. In a three to five page paper, identify (1) what do these branches of social science (archaeology or anthropology) tell us about this society, (2) which branch of social science contributes more to our knowledge of this civilization, and (3) what new discoveries might we learn about this society in years to come. Make certain for part two to choose one branch of social science and support your answer with appropriate facts and details.

Your paper should be typed double-spaced in a size twelve, times new roman font. Make certain to create a bibliography of all of the sources you use (books, periodicals, and the INTERNET are appropriate). Make certain you cite all of your sources for this assignment. The use of sources without citation, including "borrowing" parts or all of a paper constitutes plagiarism. Any papers that are not your original work will be disciplined according to the Scholars' Academy Academic Integrity Policy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at Kchobot@schools.nyc.gov. Please keep in mind that response time to emails may be a bit slower than during the regular school year.