

P.I.E.C.E.S. OF AN EMPIRE PROJECT: CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS

Civilizations do not last forever. They have a life expectancy – some live longer than others, some get degenerative diseases, and others meet violent ends. Some keep their empire going through artificial supports, while others succumb without aid. Some fall entirely, while others are dismembered. You will be using the analogy of an obituary and an autopsy report to depict the success and eventual downfall of a classical civilization (approximately 600 BCE – 600 CE). You will break down your research to look at the specific pieces of your empire (ha! PIECES! Get it!), and ultimately explain how those pieces fell apart, leading to the empire's downfall.



Directions: You will be looking into the rise, successes, and eventual downfall of a Classical Empire (600 BCE – 600 CE). You will be depicting this through a poster project, which highlights the successes while your empire was “alive,” and an autopsy report, explaining how it “died.” This is due on **Monday, September 9th**.

Resources for research can be found on my website. We will also be utilizing library time on Wednesday and Thursday.

First, you will be assigned an empire:

- Greek city-states (must include Athens and Sparta, can include others as well)
- Roman Republic (pre-emperors)
- Roman Empire (starting with Augustus)
- Persia
- Qin and Han China
- Maurya and Gupta India
- Maya

Part I: PIECES of your empire (empire anatomy!)

Give me a clear picture of what this empire was like during healthier times, broken down into the following categories. Divide up the research, and use a shared Google doc. Each of these responses should be one to two full, strong paragraphs long.

POLITICAL STRUCTURES

- Head: Significant leaders and their accomplishments
 - Pick one or two, depending on your empire. Give a summary of that person, what he did for the empire, and his lasting significance.
- Neck: Imperial city/cities
 - This is the only part of the project that does not need to be further explained. Include a map of your civilization, and identify the main city/cities.
- Arms: Military, Diplomacy, International Relationships
 - What wars were fought? What were they fought over? Against whom?
- Spine: Political Structure
 - What was the general political structure like in the empire? Who had power? Who didn't? What major wars were fought? Against whom? Why?

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY and CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Hands: Art, architecture, literature, and technological advances
 - What was your empire's art like? Architecture? Language and writing? Education systems? Scientific and mathematical advancements? Weapons and tools? Advanced machines? Medicine?
- Heart: Religious Beliefs
 - Summarize the main religious beliefs and their significance in the development of the empire. What were the empire's main belief systems, philosophies, and ideologies? Were they unifying forces or forces that promoted disunity? Why?

ENVIRONMENTAL INTERACTIONS and ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

- Feet: Agriculture, economics, and trade routes
 - What was their economy based on? Did they trade? What did they trade? Were they involved in trade routes? Which ones?

SOCIAL STRUCTURES

- Legs: Labor Systems
 - What were the major labor systems? What about class structures? Social mobility? Social barriers?
- Ribs: Societal infrastructure / gender roles
 - What was the social pyramid like in this empire? Gender roles and relations?

*you will be given a paper that will have requirements of what to include, specific to your empire. You **must** include the vocabulary terms listed on that paper. They must be identified (underlined/highlighted) on your poster, and must be defined.

Part 2: The Obituary

- You should do this only after you've completed the research above.
- Write a clear picture of what this civilization was like during its prime. What made your empire or civilization successful? What were its strengths? How did it grow to be successful?
- This should be typed, and should be around one page, double-spaced.

Part 3: The Autopsy

- You will write the autopsy of your empire after your obituary.
- Based on your research, explain how this empire fell. What conflicts existed between people, belief systems, and political and cultural differences? What factors contributed to fall of the empire? What led to its decline and weakening? What was the "final blow"? Was it a long or slow decline?

Part 4: Synthesize! Create your empire poster

- Now that you have all of your research completed, it's time to create your poster. You have two options here:
 - Option 1:
 - In the middle of the poster, you should create a person that will represent your empire. Your person should be reflective of what you learned in your research – it should be clear to me what group did what empire based on the drawing and coloring of your person.
 - Option 2:
 - In the middle of the poster, create the outline of a person. Within each respective area above (example: head and main political leaders), draw a representation of what you researched. This will be somewhat disjointed, but will symbolize how all of the various pieces of your empire worked together to create a high functioning civilization.

*This should at a minimum be poster-sized (I will provide butcher paper). **This is a major grade.**

