**ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME**

**Research Assignment**

**Directions:** As a prelude to our unit on Ancient Greece and Rome, you will work in groups to become experts on various aspects of the ancient world. Your task is to research all you can, using internet sources and your literature book, and to prepare an oral/visual presentation in which you teach what you’ve learned to your classmates. Your groups and topics will be chosen by your teacher. The topics for this assignment are listed below. The guiding questions are designed to help you get started, but please do not limit your information gathering to the guiding questions. Your goal is to become an expert on your topic.

**Assignment objectives:** The objectives for this assignment are to give you practice in research skills, to allow you the opportunity to present orally in front of an audience of your peers, to encourage positive collaboration with your peers and to provide a historical background for our next literature unit.

**Topics and Guiding Questions**

1. **The Rise of Greece**

* Describe the rise of Greek civilization.
* Who were the Mycenaeans?
* What is the Heroic Age?
* What are the earliest surviving works of Greek poetry?
* Describe the development that we owe to the ancient Greeks.
* Name one way in which the people of Greek city-states fostered a common identity.
* What were the Persian Wars?

1. **Greek Culture and Literature**

* What is an epic?
* What other writing genres were popular in ancient Greece?
* What aspects of our culture and language originate in ancient Greek tradition and culture?
* What ancient Greek traditions are still alive today?
* Who were some of the most prominent writers who emerged during Athens’ Golden Age?

1. **Greek History and Philosophy**

* Who were some of ancient Greece’s most prominent historians?
* Describe ancient Greece’s most prominent philosophers.
* What was the Peloponnesian War?
* Who was Alexander the Great?
* What caused the decline of ancient Greece?

1. **The Rise of Rome**

* Describe ancient Roman values.
* Describe the founding of Rome.
* In what ways did the Romans look to the ancient Greeks as models?

1. **The Roman Republic**

* What is a republic?
* Describe the geographical extent of the Roman empire. When was the Roman Empire at the height of its power and influence?
* What were the Punic Wars?
* Who was Julius Caesar?
* How and why did Julius Caesar die?
* Who was emperor Augustus?
* What caused the decline and fall of Rome?

1. **Roman Religion and Literature**

* Describe the Roman religion.
* Who were the Epicureans?
* Who were the Stoics?
* Who were some of the most prominent Roman writers and what are they famous for?

**Specific Requirements and Rubric**

**Visual aid**

* All group members must collaborate and contribute equally to the visual aid.
* All information included in the visual aid must be clear and relevant.
* The slides must be visually appealing but easy to read and understand.
* The information presented must come from at least three reliable, reputable sources (Wikipedia is not a legitimate source for this research).
* All sources must be cited in MLA format on a final Works Cited slide.

\_\_\_ / 25 points

**Oral Presentation**

* All group members must contribute equally to the oral presentation.
* All group members must appear knowledgeable in their subject area.
* All information presented must be clear and relevant.
* The information must be presented in an audible, confident, clear voice.
* The group must be able to answer content questions from either the teacher or their peers.
* The class must be well educated about the topic so they could successfully pass a quiz on it.

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