EMPIRES PROJECT

You and your partner(s) have been hired as curators of the Westonian Museum, and have been charged with designing a new exhibit entitled the “The Rise and Fall of Empires.”

You are to choose one empire to research and present to the Board of Directors of the Museum (the class) to vote on and fund. In the roles of historian/archeologist, curator and docent, you need to research the empires and design a layout of the museum wing, choose at least 10 artifacts for each society to portray the rise, height and fall of the society. In order to do this, you will present the artifact and have a separately written identification card explaining each of the artifacts. A 10-15 minute “guided tour” that you will simulate for the Board using your artifact choices through the exhibit should clearly portray how the system of government in your chosen Empire changed over time and reveal the main reasons as to why it declined.

Assessment Criteria (out of 100 points):

Written Information: (30 points) Do the identification cards reveal careful research? Do they include specific, accurate information? Do they appropriately explain the artifact, its uses and what it represents?

Artifacts: (25 points) Do your artifact choices reveal thought, preparation and creativity? Do they accurately reflect the various stages of the chosen empire?

Presentation: (25 points) Do you use your artifacts appropriately and effectively in your presentation? Do you properly simulate a “guided tour” that a docent would give in a museum? Do you answer questions effectively? Are the board members receptive and willing to fund your project?

Overall Design: (10 points) Does the design lend itself to the theme of the “Rise and Fall of Empires.” Is the overall design creative and thoughtful?

Bibliography: (10 points) Properly formatted bibliography? Good variation of sources?
DUE DATES:
Wed., 11/9: Introduction to Project
A-block Library Times: Mon, Nov. 14 and Fri., 11/18 (half block)
C-block Library Times: Tuesday, 11/15 (whole block)
Start Presentations: 12/7 (C-block), 12/12 (A-block)

List of Historical Empires for Project:

Early Empires:
Babylonian
Assyrian
Akkadian

BC – 900 AD
Parthian
Kushan
Sasanid
Ummayad
Tang
Carolingian
Abbasid
Ghana
Byzantine

900 – 1600 AD
Maya
Khmer
Seljuk
Song
Mongol/Yuan
Mali
Songhai
Inca
Aztec
Ottoman
Mughul
Ming
Tokugawa

Any others that are not on this list needs to have my approval first!
Group Roles:

**Historian:** _____________________________________________
You take the lead in the research for your team and the writing of the exhibit cards. Along with your team, you should help decide how to represent the rise, height and fall of the empire and help prepare the artifacts.

**Curator:** ________________________________________________
You take the lead in designing the museum wing layout, choose and prepare the various artifacts for your exhibit. Along with your team, you should help decide how to represent the rise, height and fall of the empire.

**Docent:** ________________________________________________
You are the facilitator for your group and should be aware of what is happening in terms of the preparation for the exhibit. You take the lead in the presentation of the exhibit to the Westonian Museum’s Board of Directors. You are also responsible for compiling the bibliography of sources used for your exhibit. Along with your team, you should help decide how to represent the rise, height and fall of the empire and help prepare the artifacts.

**EMPIRE:** _______________________________________________

**Rise:** How do you plan to represent the rise of your empire?
**Ideas for artifacts:**

#1

#2

#3

#4
Height: How do you plan to represent the height of your empire? Was there a golden age? Was it more a political, cultural or intellectual flourishing? What legacies does your empire leave to the world?

#1

#2

#3

#4

Decline: How do you plan to represent the decline of your empire? Was it due to mainly one factor or many factors? Were they internal factors or external? Was it a slow decline, or a quick demise? How would you represent that?

#1

#2

#3

#4

*Please have this ready to show me after the Library Time:  
A-block – Friday, Nov. 18  
C-block – Tues., Nov. 15 (leave on my office desk)