Ancient Greece Research Project (counts as a test grade)

Introduction: In preparation for our reading of *Oedipus* by the Greek philosopher and writer Sophocles, we’re going to research some important aspects of Ancient Greek history and culture. Working by yourself, in pairs, or groups of three, select one of the following topics to research. Spend some time getting familiar with your topic and decide what you think would be most important for us to know. You will want to gather enough information to put together an engaging and informative 5 to 7 minute presentation using Google Slides (or another presentation medium of your choice).

I. Ancient Greek Gods – Consider the following: What was the Greek’s belief system? Who were the major gods? What is an oracle? Where were some oracles? What were ways that people believed the gods influenced their lives? What are some examples from our society or popular culture that show how the Greek gods are still “alive” today in the 21st century? Add any other interesting facts, information, or anecdotes you think would be valuable to your research.

II. Ancient Greek Theater – Consider the following: What did the theater look like? What were its parts? How did they function? Who were the actors? What did they do? What were some famous plays? Describe a typical “day at the theater.” What role did the theater play in the lives of the ancient Greeks? Add any other interesting facts, information, or anecdotes you think would be valuable to your research.

III. Ancient Greek Architecture & Art – Consider the following: What were the three basic styles of architecture? Describe and explain them. How did the ancient Greeks create buildings? What were some of their most famous structures? Explain the role that certain buildings played in Greek government and society. What were some highlights of Greek art? Describe any notable sculptures, pottery, paintings, or statues. Add any other interesting facts, information, or anecdotes you think would be valuable to your research.

IV. Ancient Greek Government – Consider the following: This topic involves looking at the ancient Greek’s form of government. How was it structured? Who were some notable leaders? How did the leaders come to power? How much influence did the government have on society? What aspects of the Greek’s government are present in our democracy today? Add any other interesting facts, information, or anecdotes you think would be valuable to your research.

V. The playwright Sophocles – Consider the following: Who was this man? Provide an overall biography. Mention his education and role in government and society. Find info about his personality, temperament, and interests. Then describe his plays and writings. What did he write? Why did he write? What topics did he include in his plays? What were his inspirations and muses? Add any other interesting facts, information, or anecdotes you think would be valuable to your research.

VI. The Golden Age of Athens – Consider the following: What was it? How did Athens rise to power? What were the ancient Athenians like? Add any other interesting facts, information, or anecdotes you think would be valuable to your research.

VII. Science and Mathematics in Ancient Greece – Consider the following: What ideas/discoveries were made at this time? Who were the famous mathematicians/thinkers? Do we use any of these ideas today? Add any other interesting facts, information, or anecdotes you think would be valuable to your research.
VIII. Conquests of Alexander the Great – Consider the following: Who was Alexander the Great? What were his major accomplishments? What was his life like? When did he rule? Where did he rule? Add any other interesting facts, information, or anecdotes you think would be valuable to your research.

IX. Olympic Games – Consider the following: How did the Olympic Games start? Where did the Olympic games come from? How are today’s Olympic games similar to those from ancient Greece? How are they different? Add any other interesting facts, information, or anecdotes you think would be valuable to your research.

X. Ancient Greek Philosophers – Who are some of the famous ancient Greek philosophers? What were their accomplishments? How did their accomplishments change the world? How are their theories and philosophies applied today? Add any other interesting facts, information, or anecdotes you think would be valuable to your research.

XI. Healing and Medicine in Ancient Greece – What was “medicine” like in ancient Greece? What was used? What were “doctors” like? What aspects of Greek medicine are still used today? Add any other interesting facts, information, or anecdotes you think would be valuable to your research.

XII. Warfare in Ancient Greece – What are some famous wars from ancient Greece? Who fought in them? Who won? What did ancient people use in battle? What were armies like? What were some of their tactics or strategies? Add any other interesting facts, information, or anecdotes you think would be valuable to your research.

XIII. Daily Life in Ancient Greece – What were people like in ancient Greece? Were people treated equally? What did people do for work? What did people wear? What did they eat? Where did they live? What was their religion? What or who did they worship? Add any other interesting facts, information, or anecdotes you think would be valuable to your research.

XIV. Commerce & Trade in Ancient Greece – What did people do to earn money in ancient Greece? What was their currency? What did people trade in ancient Greece? Where did they trade? Where was business conducted? Who were some famous traders or businesspeople? Add any other interesting facts, information, or anecdotes you think would be valuable to your research.

XV. Your choice: Don’t like the topics above? Create your own or choose from these additional offerings, which include geography of Greece, education & recreation, slavery, the Battle of Marathon, the alphabet language, clothing & hairstyles, and xenia (Greek hospitality). State your topic here: _________________. You will need to develop your own points of inquiry and research questions.

Presentation Guidelines

* You will be using Google Slides to share what you learn with the class. You should have a minimum of 10 content slides (more is OK), in addition to your title and works cited page.

* Aside from your title and works cited page, your presentation slides should rely heavily on pictures, images, graphics, or video. In fact, as a general rule, you should have no more than six words on a slide. For most slides, you won’t need to have any words. This is because we are following the multimedia principle for this assignment, which states that textual content is best delivered orally. You will write
down longer bits of information on notecards or at the bottom of your slides in the “notes” section to read aloud with your slides, which will have images, pictures, graphics, and videos.

* Feel free to embed video clips from YouTube. A number of the research topics lend themselves well to this.

* Remember to include a Works cited page at the end in MLA format.

Requirements and Grading

1) A minimum of three academically sound sources that use primary source documents or draw on the knowledge of scholars, historians, authors, and other people knowledgeable on your topic. If you are not sure if a source is credible, please ask! Ms. Forfa has also created a Pathfinder and Research Guide for us – USE IT!!!

2) A Works cited page written in MLA format that states where you found your information. In addition to containing the three sources you use for your information, you also need to include at least 10 image/video citations for the minimum of 10 images contained in your presentation (in total, at least 13 works cited sources). For the purposes of this assignment, videos from YouTube will count toward the 10 image requirement. Visit Son of a Citation Machine or the South Hadley High School library website for information and assistance on citing sources, or use the Chrome citation extension Cite This For Me. **Tip:** Be sure to save all the links to your sources so it is easy to create your Works Cite page at the end.

3) Strong, enticing visuals or YouTube clips. When using visuals, remember to use large, high resolution images, not thumbnails. Click through to original images and copy and paste the URL into Google Sheets to display the image. For videos, note the time of the video on your slide so you know where to cue it if the part you want does not start right at the beginning.

4) Informative notecards or speaker notes with information read orally that support visually enticing presentation slides with key words and ideas.

5) Equal group member participation. Groups will receive a total number of points, which members will agree to allocate fairly based on individual contributions to the project.

Grades will be based on:

* Depth, relevance, variety, and quality of information from sources (minimum of three academically sound sources).
* Caliber of visual component (large, enticing images or dynamic, engaging, relevant YouTube clips).
* Thoroughness of information from notecards. (Ideas are supported with facts and sources which leave the audience with no unanswered questions. Text read from notecards supports key words and images from presentation slides.)
* Clarity and thoroughness of presentation (you look at your audience, speak loud and clear, and appear organized. Members seem knowledgeable and informed on your topic and are able to answer questions that may come up).

* Works cited page in MLA format with three academically sound sources for information and at least 10 image or YouTube citations (a minimum of 13 sources total).

You will have the equivalent of three full class periods to conduct research and assemble your slides, and one additional period to finalize your Works Cited page and do a “dry run” of your presentation if desired. Use your time wisely and don’t hesitate to ask for help or assistance!

Ancient Greece Research Project scoring guide

5 = Completely meets standard, 4 = mostly meets standard, 3 = approaching standard, 2 = partial evidence of standard, 1 = minimal evidence, 0 = no evidence of standard

Grades will be based on:

_______ Depth, relevance, variety, and quality of information from sources (minimum of three academically sound sources)

_______ Caliber of visual component (large, enticing images or dynamic, engaging, relevant YouTube clips)

_______ Thoroughness of information from notecards or slide notes. (Ideas are supported with facts and sources which leave the audience with no unanswered questions. Text read from notecards supports key words and images from presentation slides.)

_______ Clarity and thoroughness of presentation (you look at your audience, speak loud and clear, you appear organized, members seem knowledgeable and informed on your topic and are able to answer questions that may come up).

_______ Works cited page in MLA format with three academically sound sources for information and at least 10 image or YouTube citations, for a total of at least 13 sources.
Total grade (each category is worth 5 points, for a total of 25)

________ x __________ = __________
Grade ( /200) # of Group Members # of pts. to split

Group grading instructions: Please split the total # of points among your group members. If everyone worked equally, all should receive the same number of points. Those who did less work should earn fewer points; those who did more work should receive more points. Please write your group members’ names and the number of points they earned in the space below: