Ancient Mesoamerican Civilizations:   
Who is the Greatest of the Ancient Three?

**Introduction**

Over the next month, we’ll be learning about the ancient Mesoamerican civilizations of the Inca, Maya and Aztecs. We will study the time, location, history and culture of each, as well as compare and contrast the three. Our focus during the unit:

1. How do different environments determine economic and social structures of civilizations?
2. What are the particularities of each civilization?
3. Is it fair to decide if one civilization is more important than another?

**Task**

Your task is to make sense of and give logical explanations of the way these civilizations lived, what they left behind, if they advanced culture/civilization, and how and why they collapsed.

Be that there are three civilizations, we will divide the class into three groups. Each group will be responsible for researching about their civilization using class notes, recommended websites, and any other information available through books or online. Everyone in the group will have a responsibility. They include:

1. Geography, topography, climate, large cities, capitals (if any), and presenting all this information in the form of an illustrated map.
2. Research and make a timeline of major events
3. Research the gods and religious rituals. Choose one god in particular to talk about in more detail and present the information in the form of a poster or PowerPoint.
4. Research the social classes (hierarchy), major crops, and agricultural methods and present the information in a poster or PowerPoint.
5. Research any and all achievements in astronomy, math, writing, art and architecture and present them in a poster or PowerPoint.
6. Research the reasons for collapse/decline and if any peoples from the civilizations still exist today. Do they still speak the language, follow rituals and traditions, etc. Present the information in a poster or PowerPoint.

**Debate**

After completing your research, organize all pertinent (relating to topic/necessary) notes into a single sheet. Focus your notes on advancements made socially and culturally, any achievements, length of their existence, if they still exist, and other information that would best suit your argument.

The note sheet can be front and back, but MUST be a single sheet. Your group will use this sheet to debate the question: Who is the greatest of the ancient Mesoamerican civilizations?

**Research Time**

Unless otherwise noted, we will start using Fridays as research days instead of current event days. I’ll have the iPads signed out each week until the debate and you’ll get in your groups and start/continue researching. TAKE NOTES. At the end of the class period, I’ll collect what you’ve done and you will be graded accordingly. For example, someone with one sentence of notes won’t receive a high grade compared to someone with two paragraphs or a page of notes. Use your time WISELY.

**Grading**

Weekly Notes 10 points per week

Research and Participation 10 points

Poster or PowerPoint 25 points

Debate 15 points

100 Points