Unit 3: Create your own civilization

Content Area: **Gifted and Talented**
Course(s): **Gifted and Talented**
Time Period: **Week 27**
Length: **13 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

Now that students have learned how archeologists discover artifacts and use those artifacts to learn about civilizations, students will create their own civilizations and make artifacts of their own to help others learn about their civilization. Students then bury those artifacts in a dig site and have other groups of students uncover and attempt to deduce information about the newly-discovered civilization.

Standards

SCI.3-4.5.1.4.A.2	Use outcomes of investigations to build and refine questions, models, and explanations.
SCI.3-4.5.1.4.B.2	Measure, gather, evaluate, and share evidence using tools and technologies.
SCI.3-4.5.1.4.B.3	Formulate explanations from evidence.
SCI.3-4.5.1.4.B.4	Communicate and justify explanations with reasonable and logical arguments.
SCI.3-4.5.1.4.C.2	Revise predictions or explanations on the basis of learning new information.
SCI.3-4.5.1.4.C.3	Present evidence to interpret and/or predict cause-and-effect outcomes of investigations.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.D.1.c	Evaluate the impact of the Colombian Exchange on ecology, agriculture, and culture from different perspectives.
SOC.K-4.6.1.4.C.16	Explain how creativity and innovation resulted in scientific achievement and inventions in many cultures during different historical periods.
SOC.K-4.6.1.4.D.13	Describe how culture is expressed through and influenced by the behavior of people.
SOC.K-4.6.1.4.D.15	Explain how various cultural groups have dealt with the conflict between maintaining traditional beliefs and practices and adopting new beliefs and practices.
SOC.K-4.6.1.4.D.18	Explain how an individual's beliefs, values, and traditions may reflect more than one culture.
SOC.K-4.6.1.4.D.19	Explain how experiences and events may be interpreted differently by people with different cultural or individual perspectives.
SOC.K-4.6.1.4.D.20	Describe why it is important to understand the perspectives of other cultures in an interconnected world.

Essential Questions

- How do archeologists learn about a civilization?
- How do artifacts provide clues about civilizations?

Application of Knowledge and Skills...

Students will know that...

- Archeologists study how people lived in the past through artifacts they uncover.
- Civilizations have rich cultures that include people's beliefs, government, education, housing, economy, celebrations, food, music, art, etc.
- The artifacts archeologists collect allow them to gather information about what people ate, the activities they enjoyed, how people spent their time, and what was valued in a culture, among many other ideas.
- The deeper an artifact is found, the older it tends to be.
- When at a dig site, archeologists use excavation, measurement, dating, and careful recordkeeping to learn about the civilization.

Students will be able to...

- Archeologists study how people lived in the past through artifacts they uncover.
- Generate a fictional civilization including many cultural features.
- The artifacts archeologists collect allow them to gather information about what people ate, the activities they enjoyed, how people spent their time, and what was valued in a culture, among many other ideas.
- The deeper an artifact is found, the older it tends to be.
- When at a dig site, archeologists use excavation, measurement, dating, and careful recordkeeping to learn about the civilization.

Assessments

- Dig up a Civilization Summative: Personal Project Students should use their archeological skills to excavate the dig sites of their classmates and draw conclusions about their civilizations' cultures based on the artifacts they uncover.
- Create a Dig Site Summative: Personal Project Based on their cultural story, students create artifacts and explain their relationship to their civilization. They plan and record the placement of their artifacts in a dig site relative to their civilization. Finally, students bury their artifacts according to their map.
- What is a civilization? Diagnostic: Self Assessment What are features of a civilization's culture?
- Civilization Story Formative: Other written assessments Create a story about a civilization of your creation including some of the cultural elements discussed.

Activities

- Brainstorm different parts of a civilization (examples include food, housing, jobs, celebrations, toys, education, government, religion, money, music, art, etc.)
- Create a civilization story: Individually or in small groups create a story explaining how people live in your civilization.
- Civilization artifacts: Based on the civilization story, create 5-10 artifacts that provide clues as to how people in your civilization live. Provide explanations as to how each artifact relates to your civilization.
- Bury your civilization: Create a map of where you will bury your various artifacts with reasoning as to why each object is placed where it is. Then bury your artifacts in a show box based upon the map you constructed.
- Excavate a civilization: Uncover the artifacts of another group's civilization and draw conclusions about the story of their civilization based on their artifacts and their placement in the dig.

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

- Work in mixed-ability groups based on personal strengths and learning styles.
- Assist students in writing their story or provide an alternative method of recording including voice recording or story boarding.
- Provide students with examples of different artifacts they can create to symbolize different parts of their culture.
- Students may work independently, in small groups, or in large groups.
- Encourage creativity in the creation of civilizations (perhaps excavations on another planet).

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

Language Arts: Write stories in conjunction with language arts teachers who can help students develop their civilizations and encourage the use of detail and explanation.

Resources

- National Park Service Archeology for Kids website:
  http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/kids/index.htm
- National Park Service Activity using symbols:
  http://www.webrangers.us/activities/storiespast/?id=27
- National Park Service Activity comparing past and present civilizations:
  http://www.webrangers.us/activities/yesterdaytoday/?id=43
- National Park Service Presentation on decoding artifacts:
  http://www.webrangers.us/activities/artifact/?id=02

- Sample archeological dig of Jamestown:
  - http://www.historicjamestowne.org/learn/interactive_exercises.php
- Stratigraphy Activity from National Park Service:
  - http://www.nps.gov/hocu/photosmultimedia/multimedia.htm