Mesopotamian TripAdvisor

Context and Preamble

It's impossible to understand what life in Mesopotamia was like without understanding the major city states of the time. The different city states in the area would see their power and influence ebb and flow, but each contributed their legacy to the Mesopotamian Experience. What is it that made each of these great cities so awe inspiring? Surely there's more than brick and mortar, right?

To determine what made these cities so amazing, groups of students will work together to profile and highlight the accomplishments of each city as Mesopotamian **TripAdvisor**.

What is TripAdvisor Though?

TripAdvisor helps users plan their trips by giving advice. (Ed Note: I just love companies that perform a service that is basically their company's name!) By providing a map, a list of things to see, do, eat and where to stay, TripAdvisor helps potential tourists plan their time accordingly.

Before starting work on this assignment, all groups should spend some time going over the format at www.tripadvisor.com

Groups in this class will do the same thing as they attempt to convince the people of Mesopotamia that travelling to their City is in their best interests.
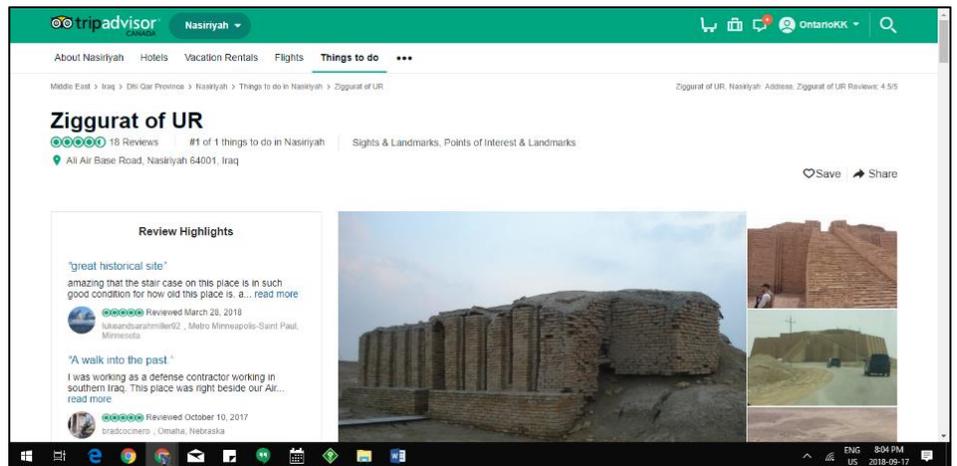
Fig.1: Click on the screencap for the link to an actual Ziggurat

Groups will create a **PowerPoint** presentation that highlights their City. Groups are encouraged to produce slides that resemble the look and feel of the TripAdvisor website as an extension of their learning, utilizing course content to create the authentic "feel" of the website. There are required elements that all presentations must contain. All of them are found on the next page.

Required Elements

Things to Do
At least 3 different activities for a visitor to experience in the city to really experience what that city was like. These might include activities that were known such as religious ceremonies, artisanal activities or even particular athletic pursuits. All activities must include historic and/or archaeological details that provide context.

Places to See
At least 3 different locations any visitor would absolutely have to visit. Include a photo, or artist's impression of the location so we can know what to expect. Some of these locations might have been destroyed over the years. Where possible, try to showcase what the location would have looked like when the Mesopotamians were at their strongest. All locations must include historic and/or archaeological details that provide context.

People to Meet
Who are the important figures from the city? Most cities will have at least one Patron God and at least one great ruler or king. Who were they, what were they known for? Provide a photo of a statue/carving if you can and include historic and/or archaeological details that provide context.

Cultural Artifacts
What artifacts are known to have come from this city? For example, are there any known examples of art, writing or craftmanship from the city? Why are these artifacts important to recognize? (Pro Tip: Students should consult with museum websites)

Shopping
What was created/made/crafted in the city? Was the city known for its excellent production of earrings or finely crafted weapons? What sort of artisans or builders were working in the city? What could they be expected to purchase? Include historic and/or archaeological details that provide context.

Map
You'll need to either create or use a pre-created map to show the following. Where exactly is the city in the Mesopotamian sphere? Where are its main rivals? A second map that shows the layout out of the city will help users navigate the city. (Pro Tip: Some cities have been destroyed, so research where the city was most likely to be located)

Geographic Details
What do we know about the topography of the city? What natural features or resources were likely used by the city?

The Extra Mile (Required for Level 4 rating)
What features do you see on TripAdvisor that could be incorporated in your presentation? Look at reviews, advertisements and other features on the website to make your presentation feel like an authentic TripAdvisor entry. The goal is to mix these features with historically accurate information. These extra features are the ones that will separate a Level 3 from a Level 4 presentation.

The Major City Centres of Mesopotamia

Uruk	Akkad
Babylon	Nimrud
Persepolis	Ur
Ebla	Kish
Nineveh	Assur

Groups and Scope:

Students will work in groups of 3-4, creating a PowerPoint (or reasonable alternative) that presents all the Required Elements. That might take anywhere between 8-15 minutes.

The PowerPoint will be submitted to TurnItIn.com and will include a Bibliography using the Chicago School of Citation. The Bibliography will be presented in the final slides of the PowerPoint.

Dates:

Friday, September 21 – Introduction to the Assignment and Library Work Period
Monday, September 24 – Library Work Period
Tuesday, September 25 – Time after Gilgamesh Activity to be granted as Group Work Time
Wednesday, September 26 – Library Work Period
Thursday, September 27 – Trip Advisor Presentations in Class. (PP to be submitted to TIN before class)

A handout on The Chicago School of Citation will be provided to students and a primer on how to create a Bibliography will be provided during our time in the Library.

Research Tips:
You'll need to research the ancient Mesopotamian city to address each required component. Wikipedia provides basic information, but to create a presentation of any value; you'll need to spread out far beyond the simple encyclopaedic entries of the well-known website. Here's some examples I just found.

Fordham Ancient History Sourcebook: Curated by the historians at Fordham University, this link provides you with the most comprehensive collection of primary source documents with convenience.

Ancient Mesopotamian: A pair of Post-Graduate students started this site that touches (superficially) on pretty much every facet of the ancient Mesopotamian world. Pretty solid.

CATEGORY	ACHIEVEMENT CATEGORY	Remedial (< 50%)	Level 1 (50-59%)	Level 2 (60-69%)	Level 3 (70-79%)	Level 4 (80-100%)
TripAdvisor Presentation	**Knowledge & Understanding**	Off topic. Does not present necessary and relevant information and historic context or understanding of material	Necessary and relevant information and historic context presented with limited success showing limited understanding of material	Necessary and relevant information and historic context presented with some success showing some understanding of material	Necessary and relevant information and historic context presented with success showing considerable understanding of material	Interesting information and historic context presented with great success showing an exceptional understanding of material
	Thinking	Does not explain impact or legacy of City or deliver any real analysis of importance or legacy.	Limited explanation of impact or legacy or deliver any real analysis of importance or legacy.	Some explanation of impact or legacy. Aspects of the analysis was unclear	Considerable explanation of impact or legacy with clear analysis.	Thorough and insightful explanation of impact or legacy with sophisticated analysis.
	Application	TripAdvisor format is not attempted and/or Bibliography is not provided.	Format is used with limited success. Bibliography is provided but doesn't adhere to Chicago School of Citation guidelines.	Format is used with some success. Bibliography is provided with an attempt to use Chicago School of Citation guidelines.	Format is used with considerable success. Bibliography is provided and uses the Chicago School of Citation guidelines.	Format and Features used with creative and historically accurate application. Bibliography provided meeting Chicago School of Citation guidelines.
	Communication	Reads text of presentation with no eye contact. Medium not used to support learning but is in fact replacing the presenter. Visuals or props are absent.	Makes a limited attempt to speak to class instead of reading. Presentation medium used with limited success. Visuals or props used with limited effect. Off topic.	Able to speak to class but dependent upon notes. PowerPoint or chosen medium used with some success. Visuals or props used with some success and have a connection to material	Addresses class with limited use of notes. PowerPoint or chosen medium effectively presents information. Visuals or props used are obviously connected to material and used with success.	Student engages with class. Notes might be present but rarely used. PowerPoint or chosen medium used to extend learning opportunities. Engaged, active and was able to showcase learning with props with zeal and insight.

City: _____

Group Members: _____

Comments: