**Unit Rationale**

 I began to plan this unit on the Huang Ho and Indus River Valleys, by thinking about the key concepts that I wanted my students to learn by the end of the project. After I established these concepts, I began to work backwards and plan lessons to get my students to this final product. I planned a unit that was centered on project-based learning. Our project for this unit was file folder project, in order to gauge my students’ learning and understanding of the project. The students were required to create a file folder on one of the civilizations and share it with the class. The students were graded with a rubric that highlights the importance of correct spelling/grammar, appearance, effort and factual content.

 Throughout this unit students will have to chance to work in small groups on discovering what life in a river civilization was like. Students will be able to work with technology when creating their file folder project, and will be exposed to technology (Smart Boards, video, etc.) throughout the unit. This unit presents itself in a hands-on approach, and students will be working with artifacts from the artifact box each day to help them better understand the river civilizations.

 This unit also addresses the five themes of geography. The themes are woven into the lessons, and the first lesson helps students establish the location and place of each civilization in order to build their background knowledge. By including these five themes of geography, I think I am helping students make connections, which is a best practice of social studies. This unit was planned with the best practices in mind, and I think that students will benefit from, reflecting, creating, using technology, working with peers, etc.