**UNIT ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS**

Throughout this unit, activities and assessments will focus on finding answers to the following essential questions:

* How did the location and environment of Mesopotamia influence their culture and everyday life?
* How was the development of the Mesopotamian civilization and the land they resided on influenced by movement and space?  
  Students will also develop their own essential questions based on their interests in and curiosities about this topic.

**UNIT PURPOSE AND GOALS**

The purpose of this unit is to help students gain a deeper understanding of the ancient Mesopotamian civilization through project-based learning. Unit goals include:

* Students will be able to describe multiple aspects of the Mesopotamian civilization (including government, economic systems, social structure, religion, technology, agricultural products and practices, and favorable geographic characteristics).
* Students will also demonstrate knowledge of the five geography themes (location, place, human/environment interaction, movement, and region).
* Students will demonstrate this knowledge ultimately through creating an artifact box project that includes at least seven key artifacts from Mesopotamia, descriptions of each artifact including research and sources, introduction and conclusion writing about the project, and presentation to the class. This project will be created throughout the unit and presented and reflected on during day ten of this ten-day unit.

**KEY CONCEPTS**

This unit will focus on the content provided in the OACS content statements included in this unit. This specifically means that students will gain knowledge of the ancient Mesopotamian civilization, especially in regards to the themes of government, economic systems, social structure, religion, technology, agricultural products and practices, and favorable geographic characteristics. These themes are directly addressed in the OACS history statement this unit focuses on. Additionally, students will review and learn additional information about the five themes of geography in terms of the Mesopotamian civilization. As a reminder, the five themes include location, place, human/environment interaction, movement, and region. These are included in the majority of the OACS geography content statements included in this unit. For additional information on the specific content that will be taught each day during the unit, please reference the objectives and standard statements of individual lessons and the daily outlines provided in the outline for this entire unit.