**Directions:** You and your group will be looking into the success and eventual downfall of a classical empire. You will be depicting this through an autopsy report.

You will need notes on each one of the empires, but will only be assigned a poster for one of the following:

**Empires:**

1. Persia (Achaemenid, Parthian and Sassanid)
2. Roman Empire
3. Greek City States
4. The Hellenistic Empire
5. Phoenicians
6. China (Qin/Han)
7. The Americas (Maya, Teotihuacan)
8. India (Maurya/Guptan)
9. Moche
10. Cahokia

**Part One: Empire Obituary:** Give me a clear picture of what this empire was like during healthier times, broken down into the following categories:

* Head: Significant Leaders & Accomplishments
* Ribs: Societal Infrastructure
* Hands: Art, Architecture & Tech. Advances
* Heart: Religious Beliefs
* Legs: Labor Systems
* Pen: Literature
* Feet: Trade routes and goods traded
* Spine: Political Structure

**Part Two: Autopsy:**

* What caused Classical Empires to decline, collapse, or transform into something else?
* What were the social and economic weaknesses of Classical Empires?
* What external weaknesses contributed to the end of Classical Empires?
* Be creative in your delivery.

**Research guidelines:**

**Focus Question:** What is so special about your empire? Empires require large amounts of people and territory, how does yours run? Why is it the best?

These are just suggestions on how to focus your research. Follow SPICE, and provide SPECIFIC information. Example: don’t just say your empire is “decentralized”, what does that actually look like? It has over 500 governors called satraps that report to the “king of kings” and have job duties such as collecting taxes, recruiting for military and enforcing laws”.

**Social:** What was the social order in your empire? What are the social benefits for moving there? What if I’m rich? Poor? What was the role of women? Men? What was the family structure? How does your empire treat outsiders? What social classes and occupations were there?

**Political:** What is your political system? How does your empire actually run? How do you interact with your neighbors? What techniques did Classical empires create to administer their territories? What new political methods were created in order to rule the larger empires in the Classical Era? How did imperial governments let their population know that the government was “in charge?”

**Interaction with Environment:** What are the major cities of your empire, where can people move specifically to? What are these cities like? Where are your borders? What are the advantages that come from these locations? Are there any trade routes your empire controls or has primary access too? What technology does your empire have? How has your empire expanded in the past?

**Culture:** Highlight of culture and beliefs, what religions exist in your empire? Do outsiders have to convert? What art, architecture, science, and other advancements have you made?

**Economic:** What goods do your empire trade in? Labor systems? Is there any possibility of making money or important trade/money connections that can come from converting? How are your empires finances? What type of jobs can people get for skilled, unskilled labor? Food production, how does your empire feed its population?

**City life:** What function did imperial cities perform? (Trade? religious centers? Political administration?)

**Other Information:**

* You need at least **four** sources of information. One can be your textbook.
* Write your empire information in one color.
* Write your autopsy info in a different color.
* Here’s a general idea of what I’m looking for:

**Rubric:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Exemplary 40 -50 points | Proficient 39 – 30 points | Approaching Proficient29 – 20 points | Unsatisfactory19 points and below |
| Content(0­50pts.)\_\_\_\_/50 | * Content is accurate
* Content is detailed. The information speaks more on basic information but discusses how life was impacted in the specific Empire.
* Content is exemplary
* Content is presented according to directions
 | * Content is accurate
* Content is adequate. The information mentioned speaks on how life was impacted in the specific Empire.
* Content is comprehensive
* Content is presented according to directions
 | * Content is accurate
* Content is too basic. Information is just a list of facts.
* Content is missing a few details.
* Content is mostly

presented according to directions | * Content is inaccurate
* Content lacks necessary detail
* Content is missing
* Content isn’t presented as asked
 |
|  | Exemplary 15 - 20 points | Proficient 10 -14 points | Approaching Proficient5-9 points | Unsatisfactory4 points and below |
| Organization(0­20pts.)\_\_\_\_/20 | * Info is where it’s supposed to be
* Poster is neat and easy to read
* Name/class period are included
* At least 4 sources are cited
 | * Info is where it’s supposed to be
* Poster is adequately legible
* Name/class period are included
* At least 3 sources are cited
 | * Info is scattered on the poster
* Poster is mostly legible
* Name/class period are included
* At least 2 sources are cited
 | * Info is missing
* Poster isn’t legible
* Name and/or class period missing
* Sources not cited
 |
|  | Exemplary 12-15 points | Proficient 9-11 points | Approaching Proficient5-8 points | Unsatisfactory4 points and below |
| Creativity/Aesthetics(0­15pts.)\_\_\_\_\_/15 | * High level of effort apparent
* Poster is colorful and creative
* Organized in a pleasing manner
* Content is easy to read and flows
 | * Effort is apparent
* Poster is colorful and gets the point across
* Poster is organized
* Content is easy to read
 | * Effort is so­so
* Poster lacks color or creativity
* Poster isn’t organized very well
* Content is illegible or rushed
 | * There is no evidence of effort shown
* Poster has no color or creativity
* Poster has no obvious organization
* Content is illegible and rushed
 |