

Byzantium Time Capsule

World Civilization I (I) - Mr. Webb



Introduction

It is 1453 and Constantinople is under attack from the Ottoman Turks. Emperor Constantine XI has been told that the city will soon be overrun. In order to preserve the glory of the Byzantine Empire for future generations, he has given your group the task of creating a time capsule to be buried under “Christ’s Nail”-- the column at the center of the city.

Your group must select four items for each member of your team to place in the capsule. (For example, 12 items for a group of three, 16 items for a group of four, etc...) You will have to justify your selection to the Emperor. If he is displeased, you will be sent to the front lines where you are likely to face a horrible and painful death.

Task

Your group will:

- 1) Select four items for each member of your team to place in the capsule;
- 2) Produce a powerpoint slide displaying each choice;
- 3) For each item, write three or four sentences explaining why you chose that particular item (e.g. not just because it is an icon or mosaic, but why you chose that particular icon or mosaic); and,
- 4) Present your powerpoint to the class.

Each team member must:

- 1) Select four items.
- 2) Provide an image, description or drawing of each of those items.
- 3) Assist in the layout, design and creation of the powerpoint.
- 4) Write 3 or 4 sentences justifying his/her selections. **Whenever possible, explain what the item is, when it was produced, who produced and why it is significant (what it will reveal to future generations).**
- 5) During the presentation, explain why those items were selected.

Vary the types of items you include.

For instance, you may want to select:

- Two (2) or three (3) significant pieces of art (e.g. mosaics or icons--look for different themes)
- An example of Byzantine literature or poetry (if you can't find an image for your poster— you may draw a book with the correct title)
- Examples of Byzantine architecture (while the building itself would not fit in a capsule, you may include a picture of the structure on your poster board)
- An example of Byzantine jewelry (remember you must explain what that piece says about the Empire)

- Coins or statues depicting significant rulers
- Images of important weapons (e.g. Greek fire)
- A map depicting the Empire at its largest
- Images of various monks or saints (e.g. St. Simeon)
- A significant and interesting portion of Justinian's code
- Objects from everyday life (e.g. clothing, utensils, furniture, etc.)

Start your research at [http:// www.worldbookonline.com](http://www.worldbookonline.com) If this is insufficient, try the websites and/or library books on the attached list.

Grading – The project is worth 50 points and you will be graded as follows:

	Beginning	Developing	Accomplished	Exemplary	Score
PowerPoint THIS IS A GROUP GRADE	Has the appearance of being rushed, incomplete. Little variety of images. 12>	Little variety of images, but fairly well presented. 13-14	Variety of images, but only fairly well presented. 15-17	Variety of images presented in a pleasing way 18-20	/20
Written Explanations	Little or no justification for items provided and/or many grammatical or spelling errors. >10	Some justification for items provided and some grammatical or spelling errors. 10-11	Justification for items provided with only a few minor grammatical or spelling errors. 12-13	Solid justification for items provided with no grammatical or spelling errors. 14-15	/15
Oral Presentation	Presentation is read from paper. No eye contact. Poor projection (mumbling). Student guesses at answers to questions. >10	Presentation is read from paper. Little eye contact. Weak projection. Questions answered ambiguously. 10-11	Mostly maintains eye contact with audience. Good projection. Questions not completely answered. 12-13	Presentation is dynamic, not just reading printed materials. Maintains eye contact with audience. Good projection. Answers questions completely. 14-15	/15
TOTAL					/50

Credits and References

The picture of the monk came from The Dunbarton Oaks Byzantine Collection.
<http://www.doaks.org/byzcollimages.html>