

# Teacher Resource Page

## Projects in Technology: Ancient Mesopotamia

*Microsoft Word*

*Microsoft PowerPoint*

*Microsoft Publisher*

*Photoshop Elements*

### **Order and Reason for Integrating Technology into the Classroom**

These lessons present a structured progression of computer skills to help facilitate a comfortable integration of technology into the classroom. Although focusing on Sixth Grade Social Studies curriculum, the techniques and methods used may be adapted to work with virtually any subject at all grade levels, K-Adult.

Before students begin any computer application program, a personal folder should be named and stored in an accessible location, either on a stand alone computer or a network. All related files should be saved and organized in their personal folder. Sub-folders should be created for saving pictures, research, or any other files related to the project. Well planned file management saves time and helps to avoid frustration when searching for saved information.

### **Guide for Presenting Lessons**

#### **1. Open and Save**

Launch the chosen program and open a Blank Document. Go to the file menu and choose "Save As...". Name the file and save it in a personal folder dedicated to the project. **Note: Save often to avoid losing work when the program crashes or the computer freezes. It is better to be safe than sorry.**

#### **2. Step by Step**

When first presenting a computer project to an entire group of students, classroom control is essential. Present each step of the lesson one at a time. Do not move on until all students have completed each step.

#### **3. Controlled Enthusiasm**

Regardless of their "expertise", students should not be allowed to move ahead. Attempting to deal with questions or issues not directly related to each step invites confusion and chaos, by both students and teachers.

#### **4. Freedom**

Once all students have gone through the entire lesson, they may be set free to explore and create. You can then attend to those who have not mastered the basic features of the lesson.

## **The Programs**

The four programs used in these lesson are presented in order of complexity. *Microsoft Word* is the most basic of the programs. Skills acquired from *Word* will lead to an understanding and application of *PowerPoint* and *Publisher*. *Photoshop Elements*, although more complex, allows students to edit and create images, providing the next natural step for supplementing curriculum with technology. For initial attempts at using computers in the classroom, *Microsoft Word* provides a solid starting point. As experience grows, comfort levels rise, efficiency increases, and endless possibilities emerge.

## **Internet Resources**

The following links provide information and pictures for completing the Mesopotamia Dictionary, PowerPoint Tour of Mesopotamia, Photoshop Elements: Mesopotamia Poster and Microsoft Publisher: Mesopotamia Brochure projects.

The British Museum

The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago-Mesopotamia

Cyberkids Sleuth

Wikipedia

History Link 101's Ancient Mesopotamia