Innovations List

Below are the innovations from civilizations we have discussed and some civilizations we have not. You will choose one of these innovations / technologies for your final project. If you would like to do something different, you may, but you must check in with the teacher.

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| **Egypt** | **Pyramids** - large triangular buildings used as tombs for pharaohs |
| **Hieroglyphics** - Egyptian pictograms used as writing. Preserved in tombs and carvings. |
| **Mummification** - specialized process for preserving dead bodies for thousands of years |
| **Maya** | **Slash-and-burn agriculture** - removed the trees/shrubbery/etc and burned them to the ground. Used the ash and planted there. Let the area grow back. |
| **Pyramids** - not as detailed as the Egyptian pyramids. Step pyramid with temples. |
| **Glyphs** - around 800 glyphs were used. Very complex language. Similar to hieroglyphics.  |
| **Inca** | **Earthquake proof buildings** - intricate rocks little room for even fingers. Can withstand earthquakes up to 7.0 in magnitude.  |
| **Built terraces** - mountain farming. Cut terraces into rock. In steps. Various crops will be planted. Also prevents free water from destroying all crops. |
| **Steep roads** - 80ft wide? Stretches throughout S. America. |
| **Suspension bridges** - Wide enough for soldier and horse. Extremely risky to build. Used a particular system for braiding the bridge.  |
| **Aztec** | **Efficient governmental system** - Top down. Use textbook for details.  |
| **Aqueducts** - raised bridge used to transport water |
| **Chinampas** - land on shallow lake beds used for farming |
| **Dike** - long walls used to prevent flooding from the sea, usually for land below sea level |
| **Sumer** | **Wheel** - initially used as art and eventually as wheeled carts and chariots |
| **Ziggurats** - step-style temples |
| **Irrigation** - developed system of canals to simultaneously control flooding and water crops |
| **First city (Uruk)** - The first! Why did civilization start here? Farming. Why is it important? |
| **Cuneiform -** early system of writing using a stylus to press figures into clay |
| **Babylon** | **Behavior code** - Code of Hammurabai. A set of consistent laws written down and spread through the area detailing behaviors and punishments.  |
| **Hanging Gardens** -  |

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| **Akkadia** | **First empire** - Conquered nearby city-states and brought them under the same government creating the first empire. |
| **Kingship** -  |
| **Bronze mace** - Alloy of copper and tin that is stronger than any other weapon up to this time. |
| **Persia** | **Equal Rights** - Men and women treated equally, or close to equally. Women could: own property, prevent their husband from marrying their daughter, participate in battles, be a witness in a court case, be a judge and lawyer, make decisions for their husbands when they are ill, could prosecute their husbands for unjust actions, and could arrange or protect their will. |
| **First stadium** - Ohio State! Sports rule the world right now. Bonafide trillion dollar industry. Economy.  |
| **Taxation** - No roads. No mail system. Taxes are necessary: public works! |
| **Road systems** - Over 1,500 miles, nearly 19 feet wide. Super safe. 11 posts with military personnel protecting the road. Very efficient. A letter could travel the entire road in just one week, 7 days. |
| **Phoenicia** | **Dye for clothing** - Purple people. Obsessed with dying their clothes, but they used it for trade. Mainly traded for lumber. They were expert mariners. Like Mr. Johnston. |
| **Alphabet** - Earliest alphabet. Written symbols used to represent sounds. Spread across the Mediterranean Sea and used for trade across civilizations. |
| **Manufacturing luxury goods** - clothes, wine, ? |
| **Nubia** | **Pyramids** - steep-angled tombs of kings and queen mothers |
| **Jewelry** - Very pretty. Intricate craftsmanship. |
| **Meroitic script** - clever language. Very diverse.  |
| **Ironwork** - tools and weapons; stronger than Egypt’s tools |
| **Vikings** | **Ship design** - Light. Versatile. Built for inland rivers. Built for attack. |
| **Exploration/Cartography** - Brilliant. First world travellers. Found America before Columbus.  |
| **Greeks** | **Democracy** - a form a government where every citizen gets together and votes to make decisions |
| **Architecture** - Parthenon. Symmetry. Math. Columns. Marble. Temples. Amphitheatre.  |
| **Olympics** - sporting event held every 4 years with participants from all of the Greek city-states. First consistent cross-cultural sporting event. |
| **Geometry** - The math and science of studying shapes. Used to make advanced architecture. |
| **Philosophy** - Asking big questions about human existence. Socrates. Plato. Aristotle. Argumentation basics: Logos. Ethos. Pathos. |
| **Drama** - Guardians of the Galaxy vol. 2 started here. Antigone. Using writing to tell important stories and share experiences. |
| **Advances in science** - Biology. Chemistry. Physics. |