**Greece Performance Task**

From: Nicole Gilbertson

**History Standards:**

###### 6.4: Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of Ancient Greece.

**CCSS Standards: Writing, Grade 6-8**

1. Write arguments focused on *discipline-specific content*.

**6th Grade Performance Task**

**Issue: Greece in World History**

The Ancient Greek civilization of Athens has left an important legacy for our contemporary world. Many aspects of life in this city state have been adapted here in America. For example, we value democracy and the ability of each citizen to participate in politics. Our government buildings, such as the Supreme Court and Congress, are modeled on Greek architectural wonders like the Parthenon. Other aspects of Greek culture also are highly valued today. For example, we learn much about Greek daily life and religion from artifacts like pottery and mosaics. Even sporting traditions, like the Olympics, with athletes competing in events for spectators has continued to bring the world together to promote peaceful interactions. With a close look at history, we can see that these political and cultural inventions of the Greeks continue to have an important impact on our world today.

**Directions for Beginning**:

You will now examine several sources. Take notes because you may want to refer to your notes while writing your argumentative essay. You can re-examine any of the sources as often as you like.

**Research Questions:**

After examining the research sources, use the remaining time in Part 1 to answer three questions about them. Your answers to these questions will be scored. Also, your answers will help you think about the research

[INSTEAD OF HAVING RESEARCH QUESTIONS WE HAVE ANALYSIS SCAFFOLDS/LITERACY STRATEGIES TO HELP STUDENTS UNPACK SOURCES]

**Student Directions for Part 2**

You will now review your sources, take notes, and plan, draft, revise, and edit your essay. You may use your notes and refer to the sources. Now read your assignment and the information about how your argumentative essay will be scored; then begin your work.

**Your assignment:**

Your local museum has decided to create an exhibit entitled, “Living History: The Most Important Ideas and Objects of the Past.” The museum curator is asking the community to choose the items that will be a part of the display. Since you have finished studying Ancient Greece, the archivist has reached out to you to choose one item that best reflects Ancient Greece’s impact on our world today. You will identify a specific source that you think should be included in museum display that best exemplifies Ancient Greece’s important influence on our society. You must present evidence to defend your claim and demonstrate you have considered the other sources available to you.

**What important idea or object should be included in the museum display that has influenced our society?**

**Source 1: Aristotle, “The Athenian Constitution,” 330-322 BCE.**

The following excerpt comes from “The Athenian Constitution,” written by the Greek philosopher Aristotle between 330 and 322 BCE. Aristotle was the leading Greek philosopher of the time, and is credited with writing accounts of the constitutions of 170 different Greek states.

At the time that we are speaking, the people have secured their control of the state and established the constitution which exists at the present day. The democracy has made itself master of everything and administers everything by its votes in the Assembly and by the law-courts. The present state of the constitution is as follows. The franchise is open to all men who are of citizen birth by both parents. They are enrolled as citizens at the age of eighteen. On the occasion of their enrollment, the current citizens give their votes first on whether the new candidates appear to be of the age set by the law. If the candidates are not of the right age, they are dismissed back into the ranks of the boys. Secondly, the current citizens give their votes on whether the candidate is free born, and has two citizen parents as the laws require. If they decide that he is not a free man, he can appeal to the law-courts. If the court decides that he has no right to be enrolled as a citizen, he is sold by Athens as a slave. If he wins his case, he has the right to be enrolled as a citizen without further question. All the magistrates that are responsible for the ordinary routine of administration are elected by lot in the Assembly. However, the Military Treasurer, the Commissioners of the Festival Fund, and the Superintendent of the Water Supply are elected by vote. All military officers are also elected by vote.

**Vocabulary**

franchise: right to vote and participate in government

free born: not born to a parent who is a slave

magistrates: government officials

lot: random lottery

Modified from original and found at Stanford History Education Group

<http://sheg.stanford.edu/upload/V3LessonPlans/Athenian%20Democracy%20SAC%20Student%20Materials_0.pdf>

**Source 2: Lekythos (oil flask)**, ca. 480–470 B.C.E Attributed to the Tithonos Painter Greek, Attic

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Found at the Met Museum http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/works-of-art/25.78.2

**Source 3: Jim Benagh, “The History of the Olympic Games,”**

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/olympic-games>

|  |
| --- |
| The Olympic Games are an international sports festival that began in ancient Greece. The original Greek games were staged every fourth year for several hundred years, until they were abolished in the early Christian era. The revival of the Olympic Games took place in 1896, and since then they have been staged every fourth year, except during World War I and World War II (1916, 1940, 1944).  Perhaps the basic difference between the ancient and modern Olympics is that the former was the ancient Greeks' way of saluting their gods, whereas the modern Games are a manner of saluting the athletic talents of citizens of all nations. The original Olympics featured competition in music, oratory, and theater performances as well. The modern Games have a more expansive athletic agenda, and for 2 1/2 weeks they are supposed to replace the rancor of international conflict with friendly competition. In recent times, however, that lofty ideal has not always been attained.  **The Ancient Olympics**  The earliest reliable date that recorded history gives for the first Olympics is 776 B.C., although virtually all historians presume that the Games began well before then.  It is certain that during the midsummer of 776 B.C. a festival was held at Olympia on the highly civilized eastern coast of the Peloponnesian peninsula. That festival remained a regularly scheduled event, taking place during the pre-Christian golden age of Greece. As a testimony to the religious nature of the Games (which were held in honor of Zeus, the most important god in the ancient Greek pantheon), all wars would cease during the contests. According to the earliest records, only one athletic event was held in the ancient Olympics — a footrace of about 183 m (200 yd), or the length of the stadium. A cook, Coroibus of Elis, was the first recorded winner. The first few Olympics had only local appeal and were limited to one race on one day; only men were allowed to compete or attend. A second race — twice the length of the stadium — was added in the 14th Olympics, and a still longer race was added to the next competition, four years later.  When the powerful, warlike Spartans began to compete, they influenced the agenda. The 18th Olympiad included wrestling and a pentathlon consisting of running, jumping, spear throwing (the javelin), discus throwing, and wrestling. Boxing was added at the 23rd Olympiad, and the Games continued to expand, with the addition of chariot racing and other sports. In the 37th Olympiad (632 B.C.) the format was extended to five days of competition.  The growth of the Games fostered "professionalism" among the competitors, and the Olympic ideals waned as royalty began to compete for personal gain, particularly in the chariot events. Human beings were being glorified as well as the gods; many winners erected statues to deify themselves. In A.D. 394 the Games were officially ended by the Roman emperor Theodosius I, who felt that they had pagan connotations.  **The Modern Olympics**  The revival of the Olympic Games in 1896, unlike the original Games, has a clear, concise history. Pierre de Coubertin (1863–1937), a young French nobleman, felt that he could institute an educational program in France that approximated the ancient Greek notion of a balanced development of mind and body. The Greeks themselves had tried to revive the Olympics by holding local athletic games in Athens during the 1800s, but without lasting success. It was Baron de Coubertin's determination and organizational genius, however, that gave impetus to the modern Olympic movement… With delegates from Belgium, England, France, Greece, Italy, Russia, Spain, Sweden, and the United States in attendance, he advocated the revival of the Olympic Games. He found ready and unanimous support from the nine countries. De Coubertin had initially planned to hold the Olympic Games in France, but the representatives convinced him that Greece was the appropriate country to host the first modern Olympics. The council did agree that the Olympics would move every four years to other great cities of the world.  Thirteen countries competed at the Athens Games in 1896. Nine sports were on the agenda: cycling, fencing, gymnastics, lawn tennis, shooting, swimming, track and field, weight lifting, and wrestling. The 14-man U.S. team dominated the track and field events, taking first place in 9 of the 12 events. The Games were a success, and a second Olympiad, to be held in France, was scheduled. Olympic Games were held in 1900 and 1904, and by 1908 the number of competitors more than quadrupled the number at Athens — from 311 to 2,082.  Beginning in 1924, a Winter Olympics was included — to be held at a separate cold-weather sports site in the same year as the Summer Games — the first held at Chamonix, France. In 1980 about 1,600 athletes from 38 nations competed at Lake Placid, N.Y., in a program that included Alpine and Nordic skiing, biathlon, ice hockey, figure skating and speed skating, bobsled, and luge.  But the Summer Games, with its wide array of events, are still the focal point of the modern Olympics. Among the standard events are basketball, boxing, canoeing and kayaking, cycling, equestrian arts, fencing, field hockey, gymnastics, modern pentathlon, rowing, shooting, soccer, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, volleyball, water polo, weight lifting, wrestling (freestyle and Greco-Roman), and yachting. New sports are added to the roster at every Olympic Games; among the more prominent are baseball, martial arts, and most recently triathlon, which was first contested at the 2000 Games. The Games are governed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), whose headquarters is in Lausanne, Switzerland.  The Summer and Winter Games were traditionally held in the same year, but because of the increasing size of both Olympics, the Winter Games were shifted to a different schedule after 1992. They were held in Lillehammer, Norway in 1994, in Nagano, Japan in 1998, in Salt Lake City, Utah in 2002, in Turin, Italy in 2006, and in 2010, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. |

**Source 4: Architecture: The Parthenon**

****

****