

Ancient Civilizations

Using Microsoft Access Database as a Graphical Organizer for Information about Ancient Egypt, Greece, and the Roman Empire

OBJECTIVES

- Explain the term civilization.
- Describe the ancient civilizations of Greece, Rome, and Egypt in terms of geographic features; government; agriculture; architecture; music; art; religion; sports; and roles of men, women, and children.

MATERIALS

- Microsoft Access
- Ancient Civilizations Database Template
- Ancient Civilizations Planning Sheet
- Research resources
- Internet (optional)

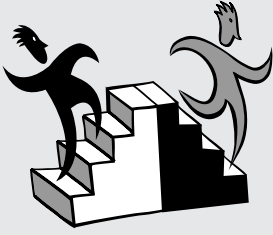
Note: Before the lesson, review the Ancient Civilizations activities. Gather resources for students to use for research. Open the Ancient Civilizations Database Template and review the different objects within the database. Select Tables, Queries, Forms, and Reports from the Objects menu for sample activities. Decide if it will be easier for your students to enter their data into the Form template or Table template included in the database. Make modifications to suit your particular needs.

Tip: To modify the layout or the fields in Tables and Forms click the object once to select it and then click Design View.

Students may think ancient civilizations are irrelevant to today's society. However, much of our current civilization is derived from ancient civilizations, including word roots in our language, the democratic system of government, and our calendar. Studying ancient civilizations helps students understand how civilizations formed, how culture is dynamic, and how civilization can be its own catalyst in its demise.

In this activity, students will use Microsoft Access database to organize notes during the study of ancient civilizations.

Civilization	Geographic Location	Government	Agriculture	Architecture
Roman Empire	Rome is located in Italy, a peninsula that sticks out into the Mediterranean Sea. Ancient Roman Empire covered much larger area.	first world state empire, republic, executive branch, legislative branch, rulers, rulers still had absolute power	bread, cheese, wheat, olives, grapes, wine, cooler climates turnips and apples, chicken, pork, rabbits	poor people lived villas, most imp
Greece	A peninsula that extends into the Mediterranean Sea	several city states Polis, Athens democracy, assembly, representatives from each city state all male	divided by mountains crops were vital...fishing in Mediterranean, farmed radishes, beans, olives, fruits	Doric and Ionic c poor people hous contacted around
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Customizing to Meet Your Needs

- If your access to computers is limited, set up a rotation schedule for students to contribute to one class database.
- It would be easier for younger students to enter data in the **Form** object where only one record at a time is visible.

Before the Computer

1. Discuss with students the term civilization. Begin with how people once moved from place to place hunting and gathering food. There was a time when people did not live in cities but rather moved from place to place depending upon where they could find the most plants and animals to eat. When people learned to farm and raise their own animals, they no longer needed to hunt for food. When many people moved to one area, the area became known as a city. Cities were the beginning of civilization. People began to develop traditions, government, and laws.
2. Divide students into three groups—one for each of the three civilizations. Within each group form subgroups and assign research responsibilities.
3. Share grading criteria with students before students begin research projects.
4. Distribute the Ancient Civilizations Planning Sheet. Allow ample time for the research portion of this project.

At the Computer

1. Prior to class, open the Ancient Civilizations Database Template on a computer. Select **Forms** under the **Object menu** next select the Animal Kingdom Template. Click the **Design View** icon to open the template. Choose **Save As** from the **File** menu to create a working copy of the template. This will keep the original template clean.
2. Direct students to the Ancient Civilizations Template. Model for students how they will take enter their data into the table form.
3. Demonstrate to students how to print summarized Microsoft Access reports.
4. Determine how students will share their information in a presentation to the other two ancient civilization groups. If access to technology is limited, perhaps one group can create a multimedia report using PowerPoint or HyperStudio while others use more traditional means such as poster paper.
5. Set presentation criteria for students before beginning presentations.

Other Great Activities

- Read Greek and Roman myths. Have students write their own myths.
- Write a campaign for a favorite goddess or god as student body president.
- Design Greek architecture by creating a Doric column, a Corinthian column, and an Ionic column using clay.
- Create a four-part diorama showing scenes from ancient Rome and write a paragraph about each scene.
- Design a timeline for events in each of the ancient civilizations.

Internet Connection

<http://www.ancientgreece.com/>

Detailed information about ancient Greece.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/romans/index.shtml>

Learn about the Roman Empire and why it was once said that all roads lead to Rome.

<http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/>

This site explores Ancient Egypt.



Tips & Timesavers

- To introduce Microsoft Access databases to students, demonstrate the phone book as an example of a database. The phone book has several pieces of information (fields) for each person (record).
- If you need to change field names in the Ancient Civilizations Template, just double-click the field name and type a new name.