

Name:

Class:

6th Grade ELA February Break Homework Assignment

Directions: Read the speech and answer the following questions

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT (Barack Obama) IN A NATIONAL ADDRESS TO AMERICA'S SCHOOLCHILDREN September 8, 2009

P1 No one's born being good at all things. You become good at things through hard work. You're not a varsity athlete the first time you play a new sport. You don't hit every note the first time you sing a song. You've got to practice. The same principle applies to your schoolwork. You might have to do a math problem a few times before you get it right. You might have to read something a few times before you understand it. You definitely have to do a few drafts of a paper before it's good enough to hand in.

P2 Don't be afraid to ask questions. Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it. I do that every day. Asking for help isn't a sign of weakness, it's a sign of strength because it shows you have the courage to admit when you don't know something, and that then allows you to learn something new. So find an adult that you trust—a parent, a grandparent or teacher, a coach or a counselor—and ask them to help you stay on track to meet your goals. And even when you're struggling, even when you're discouraged, and you feel like other people have given up on you, don't ever give up on yourself, because when you give up on yourself, you give up on your country.

P3 The story of America isn't about people who quit when things got tough. It's about people who kept going, who tried harder, who loved their country too much to do anything less than their best.

P4 It's the story of students who sat where you sit 250 years ago, and went on to wage a revolution and they founded this nation. Young people. Students who sat where you sit 75 years ago who overcame a Depression and won a world war; who fought for civil rights and put a man on the moon. Students who sat where you sit 20 years ago who founded Google and Twitter and Facebook and changed the way we communicate with each other.

P5 So today, I want to ask all of you, what's your contribution going to be? What problems are you going to solve? What discoveries will you make? What will a president who comes here in 20 or 50 or 100 years say about what all of you did for this country?

P6 Now, your families, your teachers, and I are doing everything we can to make sure you have the education you need to answer these questions. I'm working hard to fix up your classrooms and get you the books and the equipment and the computers you need to learn. But you've got to do your part, too. So I expect all of you to get serious this year. I expect you to put your best effort into everything you do. I expect great things from each of you.

Barack Obama's Speech Comprehension Questions

1. In Paragraph 1, President Obama says: "You're not a varsity athlete the first time you play a new sport. You don't hit every note the first time you sing a song." Why does he include these examples? How do they contribute to the meaning of that paragraph? Use evidence from the text.

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2. In Paragraph 4, President Obama repeats the phrase “Students who sat where you sit ...” Why does he include this phrase? How does it add to the meaning of this excerpt? Use evidence from the text.

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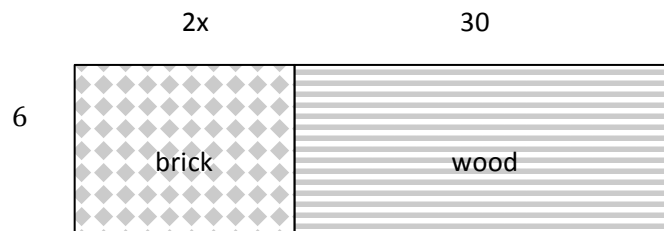
3. What do you notice about the structure of Paragraph 5? How does it add to the meaning of this excerpt from the speech? Use evidence from the text.

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1. Explain what $\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^3$ is equivalent to.

2. Amanda is building a patio in her back yard. She is interested in using both brick and wood for the flooring of the patio. Below is the plan she has created for the patio. All measurements are in feet.

- a. Create an expression to represent the area of the patio.



3. Pete had 140 candies. He kept 28 candies for himself and gave the rest away. What percentage of his candies did he give away?

| <u>Part</u> | <u>%</u> |
|-------------|----------|
| Whole | 100 |

4. Kayla and Miguel are practicing for the Lexington Academy Track Team. The ratio of the number of laps Kayla ran to the number of laps Miguel ran was 8 to 11. Miguel ran 300 more laps than Kayla. How many laps did they run altogether?

Date: _____ Class: _____

FEBRUARY

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 20 Weather: Cloud: | 21 Weather: Cloud: | 22 Weather: Cloud: | 23 Weather: Cloud: | 24 Weather: Cloud: | 25 Weather: Cloud: |

Sunday, February 19th to Saturday February 25th, you are to describe the weather outside and which cloud(s) you see (stratus, cumulus, nimbus, cirrus). Bring this into class the first day we get back from break.

ALL ABOUT MESOPOTAMIA

Where did written language come from? What about government? What happened when the hunter-gatherers stopped moving around? The first civilized group of people hunted and gathered their food. They developed written languages. They also organized government structures in ancient Mesopotamia. **Civilization** is a term that is used to describe groups of people who are able to live together peacefully. You might not think today's world is "civilized" because there are wars and murder. But, compared to the hunter-gatherer people, today's world is more civilized than ever before. Mesopotamia is sometimes called the "Cradle of Civilization" because of how it started. A cradle is the place where newborn babies sleep. Can you see why Mesopotamia is called the Cradle of Civilization?

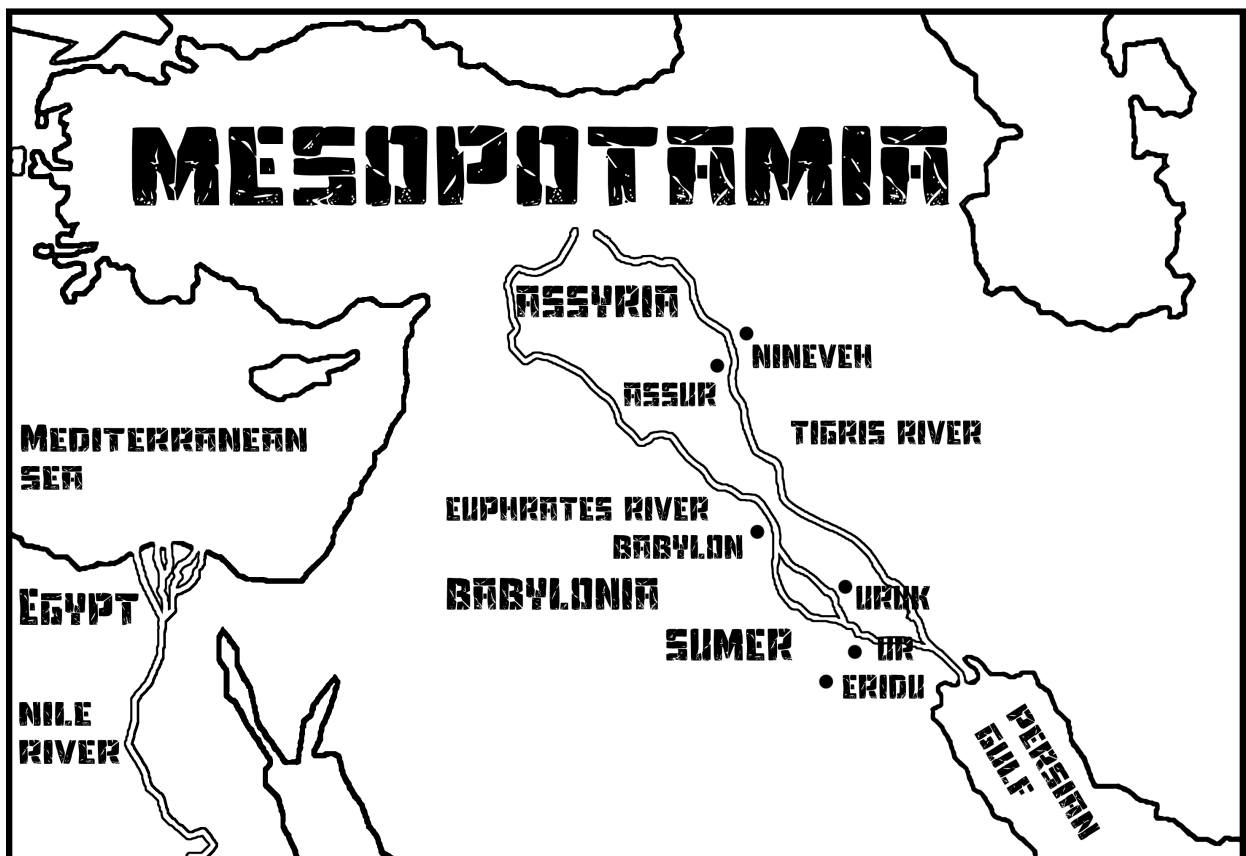
The early civilizations of Mesopotamia are not around today. However, the land where those civilizations started is still around. Mesopotamia was the name of an area, not one country. The name means the land between rivers. It was located in the Middle East. Today, this area is where Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and Syria are located. The Tigris River and the Euphrates River surrounded the area. Mesopotamia was a perfect place for a civilization to start. It had fertile land and plenty of water in the rivers for people to use. The rivers around it irrigated the flat land. This made the land perfect for farming. It earned the name the **Fertile Crescent**.

As groups of people started to settle in the rich land of Mesopotamia, villages and towns formed. The more people learned about using the land for farming, the more the population grew. A government system of organizing the people was formed. A written language was developed to help organize the population, too. These were two milestones that marked the establishment of the first civilization.

Several key early civilizations started in Mesopotamia between 3500 BC and 612 BC. The Sumerians were the first people to organize themselves. They did this in order to survive. They faced tough weather conditions, like droughts, dust storms, and floods. The Sumerians are credited with inventing government and written language. Their innovations paved the way for future civilizations that would follow. The Akkadians followed the

Sumerians. The two groups battled for control of the land for hundreds of years. One Akkadian empire was finally able to unite several areas in Mesopotamia under one ruler. Later, the Babylonians came into power. They were the first people to write down their rules for government and laws. The Assyrians came next. They were a group of fierce warriors. They kept records on clay tablets that historians still study today. Another strong civilization was the Persians. They fought to end the rule of the Assyrians and the Babylonians.

A lot of what historians know about ancient Mesopotamia comes from clay tablets and archaeological digs in ancient ruins. Based on these findings, historians have discovered that the early civilized groups of people found ways to survive despite the fact that Mesopotamia did not get much rain. They developed advanced methods of irrigation and farming. Ruins from ancient temples, city buildings, and clay tablets explain how the Mesopotamian people conducted business, organized their governments, and lived their everyday lives. Although all of the ancient Mesopotamian civilizations eventually ended, each group left behind a legacy for future civilizations to build on.



All About Mesopotamia

Directions: Answer these questions after you read the passage. Remember to begin your answer by restating part of the question, use direct evidence from the text, and explain your thinking.

KEY IDEAS & DETAILS

1. According to the first paragraph of the text, why is Mesopotamia often called the “Cradle of Civilization”? **RI.1**

2. Describe the geography of Mesopotamia. **RI.3**

3. Describe the growth and development that occurred in Mesopotamia as more and more groups of people began to gather. **RI.3**
