**World History I**

Mrs. Bailey

**Mesopotamia: “The Epic of Gilgamesh”**

“The Epic of Gilgamesh” is a Sumerian poem written in cuneiform on stone tablets that dates back to c. 2000 B.C. and is the world’s earliest known work of literature. Gilgamesh, the hero of the story, is a king who traveled the world to perform great deeds. He also tries to learn the secret of eternal life from an immortal wise man who tells Gilgamesh about a great flood that destroyed the world. Warned by the god of wisdom, the man had saved himself and his family by building an ark and eventually he was provided with eternal life by the gods. In the story, there is also a wild man named Enkidu who Gilgamesh tries to teach to become more civilized. The themes in “The Epic of Gilgamesh” are about power, leadership, and friendship.

**Step 1: Watch the Annenberg Learner Video Clip:** <http://www.learner.org/courses/worldlit/gilgamesh/watch/>

* Record at least 5 things you learned from the video clip.

**Step 2: Explore the Map and Timeline:** <http://www.learner.org/courses/worldlit/gilgamesh/explore/>

* When does the real Gilgamesh become king?
* King Sargon rules the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ empire, which lasts from \_\_\_\_\_ B.C. to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ B.C.
* What occurs in 2100 B.C.?
* Approximately when is the Old Babylonian Gilgamesh epic written?
* When was “The Epic of Gilgamesh” translated? Who translated it?

**Step 3: Explore the Slideshow:** <http://www.learner.org/courses/worldlit/gilgamesh/explore/slideshow.html#slideshow_1>

* Who is Ishtar?
* Where was King Ashurbanipal’s Assyrian palace located?

**Step 4: In complete and detailed sentences, explain why you think “The Epic of Gilgamesh” is significant.**

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| **Competency: Mesopotamia (M2)** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| Examine artifacts and explain the significance of major achievements of ancient Mesopotamia and/or how they help shape our understanding of Mesopotamian history and culture.  | No errors and the writing prompt is longer than required and/or very thoughtfully constructed.  | Assignment was completed as required. | Assignment was completed but lacks correct information.  | Assignment is incomplete.  |