

Creating a Character Collage of Human Achievements

Overview

This culminating project challenges you to create a character collage about early humans that answers this question: *How have the achievements of early humans affected modern life?* You will create a character collage that shows the key achievements of early humans and their effects on aspects of modern life. Your character collage should demonstrate a clear understanding of the three historical periods covered in the unit: the Paleolithic, the Neolithic, and the emergence of Sumer.

Requirements

1. Your character collage must answer this question: *How have the achievements of early humans affected modern life?* You must explain how aspects of modern life have been affected by these early human achievements:

Paleolithic (include at least four): origin stories, bipedalism, stone tools, control of fire, ritual burials, tents, cave painting, personal decorations, carvings, rock art

Neolithic (include at least four): development of agriculture, development of trade, specialization of occupations, permanent shelters, large settlements, weaving, metalworking, pottery, social organization

Emergence of Sumer (include at least four): city-states, irrigation systems, plow, mathematics, music, organized armies, sailboat, wheel, written laws, development of writing (cuneiform)

2. Your collage must contain these elements:
 - visuals representing 12 key achievements of early humans
 - visuals of aspects of modern life, each of which is connected to one achievement of early humans
 - a one- to two-sentence explanation of the connection between each achievement and an aspect of modern life

Steps for Completing Your Character Collage

1. Brainstorm ideas for your character collage by completing **CP Student Handout D: Brainstorming Ideas for a Character Collage**. Use your notes from the unit to describe an achievement of early humans, and sketch a visual to represent it. Then explain how an aspect of modern life is connected to this achievement, and sketch a visual that represents this modern aspect. Repeat this process with the other achievements of early humans that you want to include in your character collage. Review your ideas and sketches with your teacher before laying out your character collage.
2. Before creating the final draft of your collage, use **CP Student Handout E: Layout for a Character Collage** to create a rough layout of your collage. Tape the handout together. Write each achievement in the appropriate circle, and make a quick sketch of the achievement next to it. Next, on or around the stick figure of the teenager, sketch your visual of an aspect of modern life that is connected to each achievement. Draw an arrow connecting each visual of an achievement to the corresponding visual of an aspect of modern life. Finally, in one of the 12 sections, write a one- or two-sentence description of the achievement and its connection to the aspect of modern life.
3. Once you have completed the layout sheet, cut out and paste the drawing of the teenage boy or girl from **CP Student Handout F: Figure of a Modern Teenager** onto a large piece of paper. Copy the circles and sections around the figure as shown on **CP Student Handout E**. Transfer your ideas and drawings from **CP Student Handout E** to your final draft. Add touches to make your collage artistic and visually appealing, such as using extra color, adding pictures from magazines, and creating interesting visuals.