Project 1: Empires around the Globe

Project goal: Students will develop their online research skills while learning about early modern empires. Students will create a Google Slide presentation on their empire satisfying specific criteria. Students will give the presentation. Students will complete a SPRITE sheet for each empire based on the class presentations and use their SPRITE chart to compare the empires.

Directions: Students will sort themselves into groups of 3. Each group will be assigned three of the following early modern empires: Qing China, Ming China, Tokugawa Japan, Mali Empire, Asante Kingdom, Maya Empire, Inca Empire, Aztec Empire, or the Maori people. Using the library databases and internet search engines, students will create a presentation that provides the history of the empires as well as an overview of each empire during the 1500s or 1600s.

Fine Print: Students MUST include a citation for each answer. For each website outside of the library databases, students must complete and submit a website evaluation worksheet. Each group must use at least 5 sources and at least two sources must be a website for which they must complete a website evaluation form. In addition to the presentation, students will be required to submit two progress checks. Students will be required to take a quiz in which they will demonstrate their research skills. Students will hand in a printed copy of their presentation, including the slide notes. All citations for each slide will be in the notes section.

Presentations must include:
- Location of empire (a map helps!)
- Years the empire existed
- What type of government did the empire have? What was the title given to the ruler? Were there rules about who could become the ruler? (Include source)
- Identify an important person in the empire’s history. Why do you think this person was important? Include the years this person was born and died. (Include source)
- What was/were the religion(s) of the empire? (Include source)
- Was education a priority in the empire? Who was educated? Who was not? What was the focus of the education? Were there schools/universities in the empire? What were scholars interested in? (Include source)
- Were there social classes in the empire? Explain them. (Include source)
- What was the role of women in the empire? (Include source)
• Was art or architecture important? If yes, provide one example of each. Did they develop new styles of art or architecture? If yes, what were they? (Include source)
• What was the economy of the empire? How did they make money? Did they make money? (Include source)
• Were there any important inventions? What were they? (Include source)
• What primary sources exist from the empire? What do they tell us? (Include source)
• Is most of our knowledge about the empire from themselves or from an outsider (European) perspective?
• What was the turning point in the empire’s history - when did the empire either become powerful or lose power? Why? (Include source)