**March Madness**



Tournament of Champions

AP World History

It's March, and that means it's time for heated rivalries, thrilling upsets, and the menacing run to the Final Four. It's time to separate the pretenders from the contenders… and we're not even talking basketball. It's time for AP World History March Madness – Empires of the World Tournament. The tournament committee has scoured through 10,000 years of history, traversing the entire globe in search of the best empires of all time. It has come down to this:

***32 Empires, 1 Crown***

You will advocate for one empire. You must fight, claw, and scratch your way through the brackets, in search of the crown. Each round consists of a debate, from which one empire will advance and one will go home. After the showdown, one winner will emerge to seize the crown and claim the title, Empire of the World.

**Procedure:**

1. Compete for initial seeds. This is the order in which you will choose rulers.
2. Scan the textbook to decide which empire you would like to portray.
3. Sign up (in seeded order) to reserve your empire. Seeds will also determine bracket position.
4. Write a historical summary of your empire’s contributions. Be sure to include:
	1. A title with the empire’s name and time period.
	2. 1-2 pages describing why the empire is great and one of the most influential empires in history. Be sure to include evidence pertaining to the course themes—human-environment interaction, development and interaction of cultures, state building/expansion/conflict, economic systems, social structures, interaction and technology.
	3. Include size of empire – how much territory did it control?
	4. Duration of empire – how long did it last?
	5. Wealth of empire – how wealthy was it?
	6. Cultural advancements – in what ways did it contribute to world culture?
	7. Technological advancements – in what ways did the empire contribute to technological advancement of the world?
	8. Negative impacts – what negative impacts did the empire unleash upon the globe?
5. Create an in depth SPICE-IT chart of your empire at the end of your paper.
6. Create a Changes and Continuities chart at the end of your paper. Showing changes and continuities that occurred throughout the duration of your empire.

**Be ready to debate on the first day of the tournament. You will turn in your historical summary to a folder in Google Drive to share with your classmates this must be submitted by 7 am February 24th.  https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1n1HB1mK2oi1NwVoxNyFc-gvPeCO1nfTA?usp=sharing**

1. We will start debates on **March 6th.**
	1. Prepare a **2-minute speech** (take on the persona of your empire—dressing the part is encouraged!) explaining why your empire is so great and influential. Sell yourself! Attack the weaknesses of your opponent!
		1. Your argument needs to include a thesis – proclaiming why your empire is the base and three main arguments that support that thesis!
		2. The rest of your speech should be an outline of information supporting those arguments.
	2. Do some background research on your opponent—be prepared to refute his or her arguments in your **1-minute rebuttal**.
2. Serve as an impartial jury member, voting for the winner of the debates in which you do not take part. Vote for the winner of the debate by balancing the effectiveness of the presentation with the documented merits of the empire.
3. Remember to let competition bring out the best in all of us, not the worst!

**Grading:**

Historical Summary: 10 points

SPICE-IT chart: 10 points

Change and Continuities Chart: 10 points

First Round Debate: 10 points (based on preparation/understanding/performance)

2 points extra credit every time a winner advances to another round in the tournament

**Empires:**

Abbasid Dynasty, 750-1258 CE

Achaemenid Empire of Persia, 550 BCE-330 BCE

Aztec Empire, 1428-1521 CE

Babylonian Empire, 1900 BCE-1600 BCE

British Empire, 1603-1997 CE

Byzantine Empire, 330-1453 CE

Egyptian Empire, 1570 BCE-1070 BCE

Ethiopian Empire, 1137-1974 CE

German Empire, 1871-1945 CE

Ghana Empire, 830-1235 CE

Gupta Empire, 320-550 CE

Han Dyansty, 206 BCE-220 CE

Holy Roman Empire, 962-1806 CE

Inca Empire, 1438-1533 CE

Italian Colonial Empire, 1885-1943 CE

Japanese Empire, 1868-1947 CE

Mali Empire, 1235-1610 CE

Mauryan Empire, 321 BCE-185 BCE

Ming Dynasty, 1368-1644 CE

Mongol Empire, 1206-1368 CE

Mughal Empire, 1526-1858 CE

Ottoman Empire, 1299-1922 CE

Portuguese Empire, 1415-1999 CE

Qin Dyansty, 221 BCE-206 BCE

Qing Dynasty, 1644-1912 CE

Roman Empire, 27 BCE-476 CE

Russian Empire, 1721-1917 CE

Safavid Dynasty, 1501-1736 CE

Sassanid Dynasty of Persia, 224-651 CE

Silla Dynasty of Korea, 57 BCE-935 CE

Song Dynasty, 960-1279 CE

Songhai Empire of West Africa, 1340-1591 CE

Spanish Empire, 1402-1975 CE

Sui Dynasty, 581-618 CE

Umayyad Caliphate, 661-750 CE

Yuan Empire

**Note: if you would like to represent an empire that does not appear on this list, please check with Mrs. Roser.**