**Analyzing Ancient Civilizations: GRAPES**  
  
As we study ancient civilizations, we will compare and contrast their characteristics. We will use the acronym of “GRAPES” to help us with guiding questions in order to recognize the characteristics:  
  
**1. Geography:** Where is the civilization? In what geographic region is it located? What geographic landscape makes up the region? How are the people/events affected by the geography? What sort of crops can they grow? What natural resources do they have? How do the people interact with the environment? How does the environment define the culture/civilization?  
  
**2. Religion:** What do the people believe? What is the meaning of life according to this particular group of people? What is their “origins” story? How do they spend their lives? Who talks to the god(s)? How do their beliefs affect their lives? Are their leaders or documents that define their religion?  
  
**3. Achievements:** What did they contribute to the world? What did they invent? What technological skills do they possess? Are they superior or inferior to other civilizations? What are their architectural structures? What is the basis of their language/writing? What makes them unique to other civilizations? Artistically how do they express themselves: music, art, and theater?   
  
**4. Politics:** Who is in charge? What is power based on? Who gives that person or group the power? What is the governmental structure? Are there significant wars or treaties? What specific leaders stand out above the rest?  
  
**5. Economics:** How did the society distribute their resources? Did they trade or use money? What did they sell or trade? What did they need to get from outside of their civilization? How do people earn their food? Is it based upon agriculture, commerce, small trade, professions, or industry?  
  
**6. Social:** What were their social class systems? Who was considered more important in their society? Who are their thinkers? What groups are given the chance to learn? How do people communicate? What do people do together? How is a group organized? What are the family and gender relations?

**Civilization of Kingsburg:**

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| **GRAPES** | **Information, Images** |
| Geography |  |
| Religion |  |
| Achievements |  |
| Political System |  |
| Economics |  |
| Social Structure |  |