

Plato's Republic City Project.

In this project, islands in Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans; they are covered with life and contain adequate resources for a medium-sized city. A number of proposed communities are being established in a great experiment. Your group has been selected to design and construct an ideal city, a perfect society, on a large island for a group of 50,000 people.

Geography: What will you build? Name your island nation, locating it, describing the environment and resources (cultures adapt to their environment). This will also determine how your cities get laid out and to some extent the housing. Show where your city is in the world (a map of your island chain, a map of your capital city (see **government**). You should also give a description of the type of climate you have and resources (see **economy**) available.

Government: *"Our object in the construction of the state is the greatest happiness of the whole & not that of any one class."*—Plato

"He who has power should use it lightly."—Lucius Annaeus Seneca

"All citizens of a state cannot be equally powerful, but they must be equally free."--Voltaire

The section labeled **Government** will describe how your new city will be run. You must keep the quote from Plato in mind; you cannot have any suffering or oppressed classes or groups of people. Governments which are corrupt or inefficient are doomed to fail. What kind of legal system will you have? What kind of constitution will you have? This may be considered one of the most important parts; all other aspects of your city will revolve around your government. Do the people serve the state or does the state serve the people?

Since government protects and represents the people, create a flag which reflects the ideals of your society and best says who you are.

Social programs: How will your government care for the poor? How will you deal with housing issues? As part of this, design an ideal city (include a map). What rights does each and every person have? When are you considered to be an adult? What are your obligations as a citizen?

Education: *"The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life."*—Plato

"To be conscious you are ignorant is a great step toward knowledge."—Benjamin Disraeli

"Sapere aude." "Dare to know."—Horace

"The secret of freedom lies in educating people, whereas the secret of tyranny is in keeping them ignorant."-- Maximilian Robespierre

"Poor is the pupil who does not surpass his master."--Leonardo da Vinci

"Knowledge is power."--Francis Bacon

You must also describe the proposed educational system. Is education free? Is it mandatory? For how long? What subjects will be taught? Who has access to higher education? Remember this is your city. Show us an ideal high school campus (hint: check photographs of university campuses, boarding schools in the United Kingdom, or Hogwarts for ideas).

Family: *"It takes a village to raise a child."*—West African proverb

In different cultures, the family has different forms. Nuclear families are parents and the children living together. Extended families include other generations (such as grandparents). In some cultures cousins & aunts & uncles also live in compounds nearby, the family being a work unit. What shape does the family take in your city? How do we care for the young, the disabled, the elderly? The make-up of the family also determines the type of housing. Describe the dwellings and include a photo of typical family housing.

Faith: *Righteousness alone can exalt [America] as a nation...Whoever thou art, remember this; and in thy sphere practice virtue thyself, and encourage it in others.* -- Patrick Henry

Has [government] any solid foundation? Any chief cornerstone?... I think it has an everlasting foundation in the unchangeable will of God... The sum of my argument is that civil government is of God.-- James Otis.

What role will faith play in your city? Is your society going to be Christian? Secular? Pluralistic? How will people learn about Scripture? Worship? Discipleship? How to live out their faith? Will religious faith be

taught in schools? In the home? Will families be required by law to participate in church? Will your laws be based on the Scripture or on another holy book? Or will you seek to develop a moral consensus from the people in your society? If your society declares a certain faith how will you deal with people who don't subscribe to the teachings of the faith of the society, or don't practice that faith?

Economy: *"Sumptus census ne superset." "Let not your spending exceed your income."--Martial*
"Pecunia non olet." "Money doesn't smell."--Roman proverb

The economy is the institution which determines allocation of resources. Does the government own all resources and means of production? Are the resources owned by private individuals? Is it a blend? How do people earn a living? What industries and careers are available?

This is also where you explain the budget for the city, and how you plan to spend the money. You have a wealthy benefactor who has give you start-up money (\$1,000,000,000.00 for your first year) for the benefit of the people. You should use this section to tell me how much money will go to funding the different programs. How much will education get? What about health care? Show this in a pie graph. Remember: the more money you spend, the more you will have to raise taxes. How much will the people be taxed?

You should also name your currency and design it.

Philosophy: *"When I get a little money, I buy books; and if there is any left, I buy food and clothes."--Leonardo da Vinci*

"A wise man associating with the vicious becomes an idiot; a dog traveling with good men becomes a rational being."--Arabic proverb

"Cogito, ergo sum." "I think, therefore I am."--Rene Descartes

In the institution of religion/philosophy, what ideas from the past will be the basis of your society? Who are the philosophers from the past who will inspire your new world? What are the values that your society considers important?

Art/Literature/Music/Architecture: *"A man paints with his brain and not with his hands."--Michelangelo Buonarrotti*

What kind of art, literature, music, and architecture will be preserved as part of your society. You are selecting the best of mankind and its greatest achievements; include pictures and examples. *Hint:* you can include your architecture in your planned communities, and briefly explain how you are using it, such as a copy of Versailles for a museum (telling me what is displayed—is there music playing?) or a concert hall for the performance of music & plays, telling me what is performed there.

Advisors/Who's Who:

In order to help you build this society, you will be allowed to resurrect people from the past, using them to serve as your advisors. You must select several from each era: the Classical World, Medieval times, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, the Victorian era, the Twentieth century. You must tell me who you are selecting and why? What will be their area of expertise? How could they contribute to your city? Your list of advisors will include philosophers, scientists, world leaders, generals, monarchs—those from the past who made a contribution. You must explain your sections and what they can contribute.

Time to create: 2 class periods (maybe more)

Presentation format: You will need to create a Powerpoint or Prezi presentation to present to the class highlighting all of these areas on Wednesday March 1 (Eastside) or Thursday March 2 (Mandarin).