Objective: Students will work with historical documents to develop an understanding and interpretation of the significance of centralized monarchs in the age of Enlightenment thought.

Project Overview: Through an examination of primary documents and secondary historical interpretations, students will research, select and organize historical evidence in support of a single historical interpretation that they believe best captures the role and importance of European enlightened despots in World History.

Historiography: “Few historical concepts have had their obituaries written more frequently than enlightened absolutism, yet so obstinately refused to die” - H. M. Scott

Task: In small groups, students will

1. Exploratory Phase:
   a. Examine primary documents and conduct general research to gain an understanding of the major opinions and policies of the Enlightened Despots.
   b. Survey the various secondary interpretations of the age and its rulers and consider the ways in which your understanding and research information coincides with the various conclusions proposed by historians
   c. Access suggested resources below

2. Creating a Historical Argument:
   a. The group may either articulate a specific argument proposed by a historian from their research, or create their own interpretation.
   b. Students will present their evidence from the exploratory phase (step a) via a google presentation, Prezi, or PowerPoint that illustrates the ideas contained in your selected interpretation.

3. Assessment
   a. Submit your group’s completed work/presentation of ideas to your teacher
   b. Class Discussion
Resources:

**PRIMARY SOURCES DOCUMENT LINK**

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Interpretation of History (pp.194-195)</td>
<td>L. Cecil Jan</td>
<td><a href="http://books.google.com/books?id=gOnic_27CpQC&amp;pg=PA194&amp;lpg=PA194&amp;dq=enlightened+despot+AND+historical+interpretation&amp;source=bl&amp;ots=f2ewJp-dW7&amp;sig=5zI1_wjTqZ7xT9x0ppC3VSShRt8&amp;hl=en&amp;sa=X&amp;ei=0WmjUuzaMZLIsAS5soDACA&amp;ved=0CEAQ6AEwBgc">http://books.google.com/books?id=gOnic_27CpQC&amp;pg=PA194&amp;lpg=PA194&amp;dq=enlightened+despot+AND+historical+interpretation&amp;source=bl&amp;ots=f2ewJp-dW7&amp;sig=5zI1_wjTqZ7xT9x0ppC3VSShRt8&amp;hl=en&amp;sa=X&amp;ei=0WmjUuzaMZLIsAS5soDACA&amp;ved=0CEAQ6AEwBgc</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambridge History of Christianity: Volume 7, Enlightenment, Reawakening and ... (p.52)</td>
<td>edited by Stewart J. Brown, Timothy Tackett</td>
<td><a href="http://books.google.com/books?id=VLG0mqIz55IC&amp;pg=PA52&amp;dq=enlightenment+despots&amp;hl=en&amp;sa=X&amp;ei=AHykUuX8K_OmsQTo8oDYDw&amp;ved=0CDwQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&amp;q=enlightenment%20despots&amp;f=false">http://books.google.com/books?id=VLG0mqIz55IC&amp;pg=PA52&amp;dq=enlightenment+despots&amp;hl=en&amp;sa=X&amp;ei=AHykUuX8K_OmsQTo8oDYDw&amp;ved=0CDwQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&amp;q=enlightenment%20despots&amp;f=false</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>The age of the enlightened despot, 1660-1789 (pp.256-259)</td>
<td>By Arthur Henry Johnson</td>
<td><a href="http://books.google.com/books?id=g998AAAAAMAAJ&amp;pg=PA256&amp;dq=enlightened+despots&amp;hl=en&amp;sa=X&amp;ei=J32kJUovTM7HhsATPvYBA&amp;ved=0CEsQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&amp;q=enlightened%20despots&amp;f=false">http://books.google.com/books?id=g998AAAAAMAAJ&amp;pg=PA256&amp;dq=enlightened+despots&amp;hl=en&amp;sa=X&amp;ei=J32kJUovTM7HhsATPvYBA&amp;ved=0CEsQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&amp;q=enlightened%20despots&amp;f=false</a></td>
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