**Gunpowder and the Expansion of Empires**

*One of the inventions that most altered the human story was gunpowder. Firearms were created to use this gunpowder in a military capacity. Possessing such weapons gave people a distinct advantage over those who did not. Historically, the term, “Gunpowder Empires” was applied to the Middle Eastern Empires of the Ottoman, Mughal, and Safavid. However, looking at your GeoHistogram you will notice there were other empires that grew significantly. Although, they all have different stories, the common thread for all of them is guns.*

**PART I: Breaking up class into teams to study these groups from roughly 1400-1800.**

A) England

B) Spain

C) Ottoman

D) Safavid

E) Mughal

F) Russia

G) Ming China

H) Tokugawa Japan

**PART II: Research and Investigation of your group.**

A) Geography- Where was their location in the world? How large did their empire grow to? What was their size at their peak?

B) Culture- How would you describe these peoples’ beliefs, behaviors, objects important to them, values, norms, and practices.

C) Weapons used- What specific weapons did your group use to conquer others

D) Major leaders- Leadership can make or break an empire. Research their major leaders and choose who you consider their best one. How did their leadership positively affect the fortunes of their peoples?

E) Their most significant contribution to the human narrative- Collective learning is the idea that humans build upon the knowledge of the past. What was your groups’ contribution?

**PART III: Creating your oral presentation**

A) You will create a visual and lesson to share what you’ve learned about your group. Use the Golden Rule of teaching, “teach as you’d like to be taught”. These will be a minimum of five minutes and a maximum of ten minutes.

**PART IV: Filling in your graphic organizer when you learn from these presentations. Your grade will be based a third on your research, a third on your presentation, and a third on your organizer and will serve as an assessment grade. I look forward to seeing what you create**