**Autopsy of a Classical Empire Project**

**DIRECTIONS:** You will be working in small groups to discover the causes of death for one of the major Classical Era empires by completing an autopsy and determining the most important causes of that empires “death.”

You will need to research factors that lead to the collapse or “death” of your assigned empire and categorize them in the appropriate areas associated with each of the following parts of the body listed below. Some factors may be relevant to more than one body part and should be included in **ALL** that are appropriate.

***● Head: Political/Corruption issues***

Taxations issues, bad laws, rebellions, political corruption, bad leadership, ect

***● Stomach: Problems relating to agriculture/food production***

Overpopulation, overuse of land, environmental crisis, ect

***● Ribs: Societal/Class issues***

Oppression, Social Hierarchy, issues with new people/class, ect ***● Heart: Religious issues/conflicts***

Discrimination, lack of interest, ect

***● Hands: War/Expansions issues***

Over expansion, paying army, foreigners, ect

***● Legs: Labor/Working issues***

Overwork, slavery issues, labor shortages, ect

***● Feet: Invasion by outsiders***

Nomadic invaders, foreigner armies/empires invading, ect

YOU WILL ALSO NEED TO INCLUDE A DEATH DATE(be as precise as possible)!

**CONCLUSION OF RESEARCH:**

After gathering the above information and placing it in the appropriate areas you will need to make a decision about what the ULITMATE CAUSES of death were for empire. You can choose between 2-4 causes of death. For each cause you will need explain WHY this was one of the most important factors leading to the collapse of your empires in 1-2 substantial paragraphs. Your explanations must be supported with specific historical evidence and justifications.