Throughout history many leaders either have referred to themselves or have been given by others the distinctive title of “the Great” to be placed after his/her name. In this assignment you will decide if Ramesses the Great proved worthy of his title by evaluating his words and accomplishments.

**Background:** Ramesses II reigned 1279 BC – 1213 BC. He ruled as the third Egyptian pharaoh of the nineteenth dynasty. Referred to as Ramesses the Great, he is often regarded as the greatest, most celebrated, and most powerful pharaoh of the Egyptian Empire. His successors and later Egyptians called him the "Great Ancestor".

Diodorus Siculus (an Ancient Greek Historian) recorded an inscription on the base of one of Ramses statues as saying, "I am Osymandias, King of Kings. If anyone would know how great I am, […] let him surpass one of my works." (Osymandias was another name for Ramesses II.) Is this deserving? You decide.

The following are some of Ramesses recorded achievements. Place a check mark in the “great” or “not so great” box next to the law.

### GREAT!

1. During Ramesses II’s reign, the Egyptian army is estimated to have totaled about 100,000 men; a formidable (powerful) force that he used to strengthen Egyptian influence.

2. In his second year, Ramesses II decisively defeated the Sherden sea pirates who were thieving along Egypt’s Mediterranean coast by attacking cargo-laden vessels travelling the sea routes to Egypt.

3. The primary source pictograph left is of Ramesses leading troops to storm the Hittite fortress (in modern Syria). Although the Egyptians were defeated Ramesses inscribe these heroic words on the Luxor building, “His majesty slaughtered the armed forces of the Hittites in their entirety, their great rulers and all their brothers … their infantry and chariot troops fell prostrate, one on top of the other. His majesty killed them … and they lay stretched out in front of their horses. But his majesty was alone, nobody accompanied him…”

4. Ramesses fought a Canaanite prince who was mortally wounded by an Egyptian archer. Ramesses carried off all of the princes of Canaan as live prisoners to Egypt. If a man strike a free-born woman so that she lose her unborn child, he shall pay ten shekels for her loss.

5. After years of battle and hostility Ramesses decided to conclude an agreement with the Hittite king, Hattusili III, at the end of a conflict in Kadesh. This document is the earliest known peace treaty in world history.

6. He lived to be 96 years old, had over 200 wives and concubines, 96 sons and 60 daughters. When he died there was widespread panic that the world would end with the death of their long living king. There is virtually no ancient site in Egypt which does not make mention of Ramesses the Great.

### NOT SO GREAT!

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

6.
RAMesses THE GREAT? YOU DECIDE!

Use excerpts and primary source documents as evidence to support your evaluation of his greatness.

Do you think Ramesses the Great is worthy of his title? Write a topic sentence below that details your opinion.

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

SUPPORTING FACT #1

Write a portion of an excerpt that supports your opinion or topic sentence below. Remember you can use ellipses (…) to replace text that is unnecessary to support you answer.

“This quote demonstrates that Ramesses was because

Translation in your words:

This quote proves that Ramesses was because

SUPPORTING FACT #2

Write a portion of an excerpt that supports your opinion or topic sentence below. Remember you can use ellipses (…) to replace text that is unnecessary to support you answer.

“This quote demonstrates that Ramesses was because

Translation in your words:

This quote proves that Ramesses was because

SUPPORTING FACT #3

Write a portion of an excerpt that supports your opinion or topic sentence below. Remember you can use ellipses (…) to replace text that is unnecessary to support you answer.

“This quote demonstrates that Ramesses was because

Translation in your words:

This quote proves that Ramesses was because

CONCLUSION:

Write a two sentence conclusion below that best summarizes your opinion about what you have learned about Ramesses the Great. Remember, your conclusion should reflect your topic sentence/opinion, but have more detail.

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CHARACTER BUILDING

In your opinion, which characteristics make a person great? Use a real or fictional example from your own life as evidence to support your answer.

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