



# Lesson Plan

Created by Jill Nahrstedt

<b>Lesson Topic:</b> Communication and Innovative Technology in Ancient Mesopotamia	
<b>Grade Level:</b> 6th	<b>Subject:</b> Fine Art
<b>Common Core Standards</b>	
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.6-8.4: Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 6-8 texts and topics.	
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.6-8.9: Compare and contrast the information gained from experiments, simulations, video, or multimedia sources with that gained from reading a text on the same topic.	
<b>Enduring Understanding</b>	
Ancient people solved problems using science, technology, engineering, art, and math.	
<b>Essential Question</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How do we see Science, Technology, Art, Engineering, and Mathematics in the past? In our time?</li><li>2. What are the different methods of problem solving in ancient daily life?</li></ol>	
<b>Student Outcomes</b>	
Students will understand how Mesopotamians solved the problem of record keeping and documenting in ancient times.	
Students design a new way to communicate and document transactions within the art studio, using the materials available.	
[note: students are taught in the Teaching Artistic Behaviors format, They are given full choice within the art studio which includes but is not limited to: drawing center, painting center, fiber center, 3D construction center including upcycled materials and clay, and collage center.	
<b>Procedure</b>	
Once the students have visited the OI and experienced the hands-on activities with the museum objects, they will read the handout detailing specifically how Mesopotamians used cylinder seals and scarabs in the ancient Near East.	
Students will be presented with the problem of communication and documentation without current writing systems, smartphones (what!?), computers or any other current technology. Consider: Why would you need to wear and use a seal? Think about who wore and used cylinder seals in ancient Mesopotamia. What symbols will be a part of your seal and what is the importance of the symbols?	
Students will work in small groups to design a cylinder seal, test them out, and write a reflection on the effectiveness of their plan.	

<b>Materials</b>	
Reading handout: Cylinder Seals and Scarabs in the Ancient Near East Web article: <a href="http://www.historyonthenet.com/mesopotamians/mesopotamian-cylinder-seals">http://www.historyonthenet.com/mesopotamians/mesopotamian-cylinder-seals</a>	
Planning worksheet	
Clay and clay tools	
<b>Enrichment Activity (Optional)</b>	
Design a flyer selling the service you provide as noted on your cylinder seal.	
<b>Word Bank</b>	
Cylinder Seal	a small round cylinder, typically about one inch in length, engraved with written characters or figurative scenes or both, used in ancient times to roll an impression onto a two-dimensional surface, generally wet clay.
Engraved	cut or carve (a text or design) on the surface of a hard object.
<b>Assessment</b>	
Rubric for created mode of communication and reflection.	