This week we have been learning about the history of wine within the ancient Middle East, so wine not join us for a wine-related scavenger hunt on our online database!

The rules are simple, go to https://oi-idb.uchicago.edu/ and type the provided registration codes (i.e. E26004) in the search bar. From there you will be able to access images, information, and related publications to the selected artifacts - you can even do an “off the books” search of your own and learn more about other objects, publications, and archival photographs in our collection!

How would you have received your wine in the ancient Middle East? Why in an amphora, of course! Amphora are pottery jars that have distinctive shapes that can suggest where they were produced. Interiors of some amphora were pitched, which would give the wine its distinctive flavor. How would these have looked? See this example from the Ramesseum in Egypt! E26004

What material is this vessel made of?

Want to drink your wine in style? Look no further than this kylix from a site in Egypt! E9105

Which site was this cup from?
Or maybe you would prefer this more colorful example from Dynasty 18 Egypt? E549

What kind of flower do you think inspired the decoration of this goblet?

And don’t forget to celebrate in style! See how it was done in this historic photograph from Tell Asmar. P. 27435

What kind of feast do scholars believe these broken drinking cups and goblets were used for?

Great job! Your reward? A coloring activity, located on the next page!
From a relief from a stone votive plaque from Khafajeh, early Dynastic II Period (27-26th centuries BC)

These two servants are bringing a large jar of liquid refreshment (probably beer) for a Sumerian banquet, perhaps a New Year’s celebration to insure the fertility of the fields. The “doughnut” carried by the man at left is a ring-stand on which the pointed jar will be placed.