

Babylon

Aims

- To provide students with visual encounters with key objects from Babylon.
- To provide teachers with an opportunity to build student familiarity in terms of object identification and object vocabulary.
- To provide a visual starting point for cross-curricular work on Babylon.

Description

- A sequence of 5 slides

Teaching ideas

- If you are planning a visit to the British Museum, use the images to familiarize the students with some of the objects they will be seeing at the Museum.
- Introduce vocabulary associated with the objects such as materials (e.g. clay, stone, lapis lazuli), technical terms (e.g. moulded, carved), name of object (e.g. cylinder seal, stela, tablet), function of object (e.g. identification, aggrandizement, decoration).
- Assign individual objects to student groups. Ask the group to research their object and then present their object to the rest of the class.
- Use the objects as a source of inspiration for art and design work.
- Create mythical creatures.
- Write a propaganda passage about yourself to impress people. What words and phrases will be useful, what aspects of your character do you want to include, where will you display the writing?
- Look at how the landscape local to Babylon has shaped the world view of the Babylonians and the key features they include on their map of the world. Create your own map of the local world with your school at the centre. What local key features of the natural or built landscape will you include?

Notes on the pictures

Use the web address for each object to retrieve further information from the British Museum website.

Map of the world

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/me/m/map_of_the_world.aspx

Stela of Nabonidus

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/me/s/stela_of_nabonidus.aspx

Commemorative Stela

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/me/c/commemorative_stela.aspx

Terracotta plaque of a dragon

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/me/t/terracotta_plaque_of_a_dragon.aspx

Lapis lazuli cylinder seal of Sin-ishmeanni

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/me/l/lapis_lazuli_cylinder_seal_3.aspx

Background information

Interactive online learning site for Mesopotamia at www.ancientmesoptamia.co.uk

Look at other Babylonian objects at www.britishmuseum.org/explore/introduction.aspx

Wiltshire, Katharine, *Pocket Timeline of Ancient Mesopotamia*, British Museum Press, 2005