



Gr. 6-7: Cuneiform

Students will learn about the origins of writing in Mesopotamia and the significance of the written word to cultural development.

Summary

Outcome (Sask. Cur)	Grade 6: Social Studies IN6.4, DR6.2, DR6.3, RW6.1 ELA CR6.4-6.5 Grade 7: Arts Education CP7.11, CR7.2
Subtopics or Key Concepts	Ancient Near East, writing, language, agriculture, story-telling.

Materials Needed

- ☐ Teacher Pack
- ☐ PowerPoint presentation: Gr. 6-7 Cuneiform
- ☐ Activity materials (see below)
- ☐ Additional resources

Learning Objectives

Students will understand the ways that Near Eastern people used Cuneiform in their daily life, what it was used for and where it is found. Students will also examine the challenges involved in obtaining information about Near Eastern cultures through the use of Cuneiform.

Lesson Outline

Duration	Guide	Remarks
5 minutes	What are some ancient forms of writing? Write down as many as the students know.	Cuneiform, Hieroglyphs, Latin, Greek, Demonic
25 minutes	Powerpoint presentation	
5 minutes	Discussion about Cuneiform	Discussion prompts found below.
2 minutes	Explanation of Activity	
30 minutes	Independent Activity	
45 minute	Museum of Antiquities Tour	Optional (Tour Guide found below)

Additional Information

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think people started needing to write things down?
- How did cuneiform impact ancient cultures and society?
- What are some challenges that people face today in translating Cuneiform?
- How does cuneiform compare to other forms of ancient writing such as hieroglyphs, Latin, Demonic?
- Why was it significant that the Epic of Gilgamesh was written in cuneiform?
- How did the invention of cuneiform contribute to writing around the world?

Activity:

Option 1: Translations	Option 2: Cuneiform Tablet	Option 3: Tour at the Museum of Antiquities
<p>Materials</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cuneiform Translation Sheet (attached)</p> <p>Follow the instructions on the activity sheet and have students translate the cuneiform writing into English letters.</p>	<p>This activity can be done at the Museum Workshop or in the classroom by following the technique used in the video in the PowerPoint.</p> <p>Materials</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Crayola Terracotta Air Dry Clay</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Carving tools</p> <p>Using the Cuneiform Translation Sheet alphabet create your own Cuneiform tablet.</p>	<p>This can be done at the same time as the workshop, please inquire through our tour booking form.</p>

Tour Guide:

- Grade 6 ELA CR6.5, CC 6.6-6.5; Grade 7 ELA CR 7.5, CC 7.6; Grade 8 ELA CR 8.5
- Active Listening, follow instructions, complete tasks, summarize and paraphrase, ask questions related to the oral presentation
- Tour of gallery artifacts related to Near Eastern Cuneiform such as the Boundary stone, Urkesh Lion and Obelisk Panel.

Assessment Guide:

- Formative Assessment: Observations and Participation during PowerPoint lesson and discussion afterwards
- Assessment of Activity
- Students can summarize or paraphrase what was learned during the tour and the PowerPoint in an end-of-lesson activity (e.g., informational brochure, personal reflection, informational paper, descriptive narrative, presentation).

Additional Resources related to this module can be found on the Museum of Antiquities' Website under K-12 Education, Grades 6-7, Cuneiform.