

## Assyria

### Aims

- To provide students with visual encounters with key objects from Assyria.
- 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 Assyria.

### Description

- A sequence of 9 slides

### Teaching ideas

- If you are planning to visit 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. terracotta, stone), technical terms (e.g. glaze, carve), name of object (e.g. cylinder seal, wall relief, obelisk), function of object (e.g. aggrandizement, identification).
- 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 – particularly clay work.
- Cylinder seals were used in administration for marking property and as a personal signature. Their design could include written inscriptions and images. Ask students to design their own cylinder seal scene using either Mesopotamian or modern references.
- Consider the role of palace reliefs in royal propaganda. What messages about their rule do the kings want to convey through the wall relief images? Ask students to design their own wall relief for an historic or modern context.
- Research examples of other Mesopotamian and ancient world mythical creatures. What animals tend to be used? What is their role? How are they represented? Are there any modern mythical creatures?

**Notes on the pictures: use the web address to get further information.**

**Colossal statue of a winged lion**

[www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight\\_objects/me/c/colossal\\_statue\\_of\\_winged\\_lion.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/me/c/colossal_statue_of_winged_lion.aspx)

**Glazed terracotta tile**

[www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight\\_objects/me/g/glazed\\_terracotta\\_tile.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/me/g/glazed_terracotta_tile.aspx)

**Alabaster wall panel**

[www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight\\_image.aspx?image=ps098844.jpg&retpage=18997](http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_image.aspx?image=ps098844.jpg&retpage=18997)

**Cylinder seal**

[www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight\\_objects/me/c/cylinder\\_seal\\_of\\_mushezib-ninu.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/me/c/cylinder_seal_of_mushezib-ninu.aspx)

**Bronze head of Pazuzu**

[www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight\\_objects/me/b/bronze\\_head\\_of\\_pazuzu.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/me/b/bronze_head_of_pazuzu.aspx)

**Amulet with Lamashtu**

[www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight\\_objects/me/a/amulet\\_with\\_figure\\_of\\_lamashtu.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/me/a/amulet_with_figure_of_lamashtu.aspx)

**Black obelisk of Shalmaneser**

[www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight\\_objects/me/t/black\\_obelisk\\_of\\_shalmaneser.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/me/t/black_obelisk_of_shalmaneser.aspx)

**Flood tablet**

[www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight\\_objects/me/t/the\\_flood\\_tablet.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/me/t/the_flood_tablet.aspx)

**Lion hunt panel**

[www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight\\_objects/me/s/stone\\_panel\\_nw\\_palace-4.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/me/s/stone_panel_nw_palace-4.aspx)

**Pottery 'Palace Ware' jar**

[www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight\\_objects/me/p/pottery\\_palace\\_ware\\_jar.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/me/p/pottery_palace_ware_jar.aspx)

**Polychrome glazed jars**

[www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight\\_objects/me/p/polychrome\\_glazed\\_jars.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/me/p/polychrome_glazed_jars.aspx)

**Background information**

Interactive learning site for Mesopotamia at [www.ancientmesopotamia.co.uk](http://www.ancientmesopotamia.co.uk)

Further Assyrian objects at [www.britishmuseum.org/explore/introduction.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/introduction.aspx)

Wiltshire, Katharine, *Pocket Timeline of Ancient Mesopotamia*, BM Press, 2005