

Activity Ideas: Science & Inventions

Do Some Research

(Subject Areas: Science, Research Skills)

The activity noted directly below needs the background information that can be found in the Oriental Institute "Life in Ancient Mesopotamia" curriculum guide.

- Have students draw and label a human heart and liver, describe the functions of each, and compare with Mesopotamian ideas about these organs.
- Ask students to find out about the techniques used by modern brain surgeons. Do they use trephination (see p. 138 of our curriculum guide) as the ancient Mesopotamians did?
- Have students research how soap is produced today. Compare to how it was made in ancient Mesopotamia.

See a Film

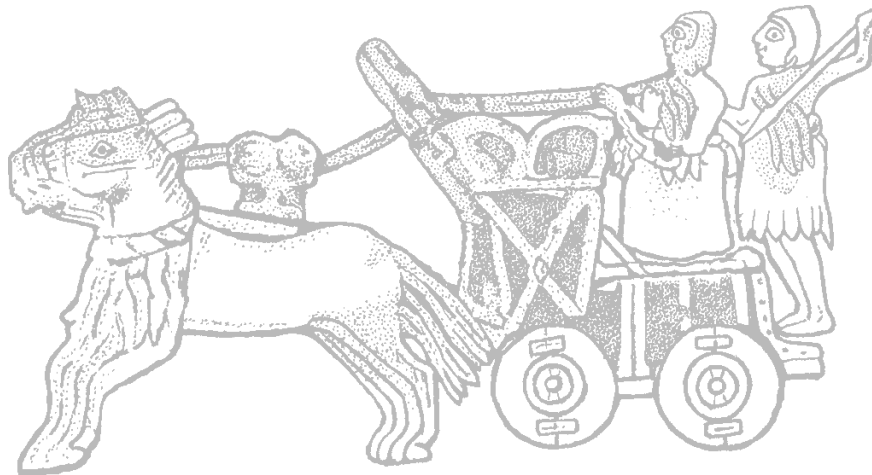
(Subject Areas: *Social Studies, Science*)

Rent the film, "The Glassmakers of Herat" (1982), which tells the story of how a family of craftsmen in Afghanistan make glass according to a formula described on a clay tablet from ancient Assyria. This 16mm color film brings ancient ways to life. It is available from the film library at Indiana University. Contact: Instructional Support Services, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47505-5401. Telephone: 1-800-552-8620

Choose an Invention

(Subject Areas: *Social Studies, Science, Language Arts*)

Ask students to choose which ancient Mesopotamian invention they feel was the most important—either to the world at large or to themselves in particular. Have them write a paragraph supporting their choice with facts, details, and examples. They might want to include pictures from newspapers or magazines to show how their invention is still making an impact today.



*Science and
Inventions*