



ACTIVITY ANSWERS

**what
on*
is this**



*Earth

b. a drinking cup

The spout on this cup may look like a handle or a horn, but it's actually a straw! It's very likely that this cup was used for drinking beer. (Burp!) In Mesopotamia, beer contained a lot of icky bits that would settle at the bottom of the cup. To make sure you didn't actually drink them, the cup was made in a special way—it had a straw attached. That way when you slurped away at your beer, the nasty bits stayed at the bottom of the cup. This gold cup came from a royal tomb, and was probably just for looks. The ones that were actually used for drinking had the straw attached at the top of the cup. It's like a sippy cup for adults!



c. a seal

This object is about the size of your thumb! It's called a Cylinder Seal. Seals worked like stamps do today, but in ancient Mesopotamia, they were used to seal a container that had products in it (like barley). There were two steps to sealing a jar. First, a piece of stone was shaped into a cylinder and finely carved with images—this is the 'stamp' part. The next step is almost like making cookies—but not as tasty! A lump of clay was pressed flat and the carved cylinder was rolled over it like a rolling pin. The end result? The image was stamped out in the clay! Visit the exhibition to see how the images on cylinder seals turn out when pressed in clay.



a. a counter

This is an administrative tablet and it was used for counting and record keeping. This tablet is a record of the amount of barley (a key ingredient in beer) that was handed out to top officials. The symbol that looks like a stick with lines above it represents the barley. Circles and semi-circles show the amount of barley being handed out. It's believed that the people of Mesopotamia invented record-keeping and mathematics. Now you know who to blame for your math homework!