

## Core Skills Analysis

### History

- The student learned about ancient writing systems, observing artifacts like clay tablets with inscriptions that demonstrate how early civilizations recorded information.
- The activity provided insight into the evolution of communication methods, from clay tablets to written scripts, highlighting how historical societies documented events and ideas.
- By comparing ancient writing tools with a modern reference sheet of cuneiform or similar symbols, the student understood the complexity and development of written language.
- Handling replica artifacts allowed the student to connect physically with the past, deepening understanding of historical daily life and administrative practices.

### Science

- The student explored the materials used in ancient times for writing, such as clay, and how physical properties like softness when wet and hardness when dried made clay ideal for record keeping.
- They learned about early technology involving imprinting symbols, using tools to press into soft clay, demonstrating basic principles of material science and tool use.
- The student observed the process of preservation through drying or baking, engaging with how science protects historical artifacts.
- This activity indirectly introduced concepts of archaeology and the scientific methods used to study ancient civilizations from physical evidence.

### Social Studies

- The student gained an understanding of the cultural significance of writing in ancient societies and how it enabled governance, trade, and communication.
- The activity highlighted the connection between language, culture, and identity, as early writing systems often reflected the values and structures of the civilization.
- Interacting with museum exhibits encouraged awareness of the importance of preserving cultural heritage and learning from past societies.
- The student engaged in social learning by participating in a museum environment, developing skills in observation, questioning, and interpreting historical contexts.

### Tips

To deepen the student's understanding, encourage the creation of their own 'ancient writing' using clay or homemade dough to simulate creating tablets. Integrate a storytelling session where the student writes a simple message or story in symbolic form to connect literacy with creative expression. Extend the learning by comparing ancient writing systems with modern alphabets, discussing how communication has evolved over time. Consider visiting a local museum or virtual exhibit on archaeology to explore how scientists and historians work together to uncover the past.

### Book Recommendations

- [The Story of Writing](#) by Andrew Robinson: An accessible look at different writing systems throughout history, perfect for young readers curious about how writing began and evolved.
- [Mesopotamia: The World's Earliest Civilization](#) by Mark Cartwright: A detailed but kid-friendly exploration of Mesopotamian society, including their pioneering role in developing writing on clay tablets.

- [You Wouldn't Want to Be a Scribe in Ancient Egypt!](#) by David Stewart: A fun and engaging book that introduces the life and challenges of scribes in ancient civilizations, emphasizing the importance of writing professions.

### **Learning Standards**

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.3 – Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical text, integrating information from multiple sources.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.2 – Write informative texts to examine a topic and convey ideas clearly.
- NGSS 3-5-ETS1-1 – Define a simple design problem reflecting a need or a want (e.g., creating durable writing materials).
- NCSS Thematic Strand 2: Time, Continuity, and Change – Understanding historical context and artifacts.

### **Try This Next**

- Design a worksheet for decoding simple cuneiform or hieroglyphics messages using a provided symbol chart.
- Create a hands-on craft project where the student molds their own clay tablet and inscribes their name or a short message using wooden styluses.