

General Description

For your final project, you will curate a small virtual exhibit about some aspect of ancient Israel. You need to choose a particular angle, theme, question, or topic to organize your exhibit. Some examples might be (but are not limited to): religion at home, religion in public, women in ancient Israel, Jerusalem, the economy and trade, etc. You will assemble this exhibit using the free website wakelet.com.

You will submit the URL of your wakelet.com virtual exhibit in the Assignments tab.

Your virtual exhibit should have the following elements:

1. **A framing statement** describing the theme of the exhibit and relevant background information about the importance of that theme for understanding ancient Israel. (150–250 words)
2. **6–8 artifacts** of your choosing that help explain and illustrate the theme you have chosen. For each of those artifacts, you must provide the following information:
 - a. A title for the artifact (this should be something you write)
 - b. approximate date of the artifact
 - c. geographical region for the artifact
 - d. an image of the artifact
 - e. image credit for the artifact, including: photographer (if available), website URL where you found the image
 - f. The name of the museum that currently houses the artifact and either the excavation number or the museum number of the artifact
 - g. provenance of the artifact
 - h. a physical description, **in your own words**, of the artifact. Be sure to include the material the artifact is made from if that is known. If the object has writing on it, you should include someone's translation of the inscription. (~30-50 words)
 - i. a statement describing how the artifact relates to your chosen theme, and what it can teach us about ancient Israel. (100–200 words)
 - i. In this section, you are welcome to bring in related texts from the Hebrew Bible and other early Jewish literature that mention this type of object or illuminate the connection of this object to ancient Israel in some way. If you draw connections to biblical or other literature, it should take up no more than half of this description.
 - j. A section labeled **Further Reading**: Include at least one website, article, encyclopedia entry, or book that provides further information on this type of artifact, the time period it comes from, or how it found its way into the museum it is now in. The source should be from a reputable academic website, academic journal or book, or in the case of stories about modern archaeological finds or museum politics, from a major media outlet.
 - i. example: if your theme is sacrifice and you choose a four-horned altar as one of your objects, you might include one of the following:
 - 1) <https://www.bibleodyssey.org/en/tools/image-gallery/i/israelite-horned-altar>
 - 2) <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/ancient-cultures/ancient-israel/which-altar-was-the-right-one-in-ancient-israelite-religion/>
 - 3) Seymour Gitin, "The Four Horned Altar and Sacred Space: An Archaeological

Perspective,” in *Sacred Time, Sacred Place: Archaeology and the Religion of Israel*, ed. Barry M. Gittlen (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2001) 95–124.

- k. A very short description of the website, article, etc. (~25 words)

Guidelines for Choosing a Theme and Selecting Artifacts

CHOOSING A THEME

The most important thing about your selection of topic or theme is that you must be able to find artifacts that are related to that theme in some way. You can choose to limit your theme to a particular time period, or to consider the theme over the course of the first millennium BCE, but your exhibit must focus on ancient Israel.

Your theme should be broad enough to enable you to find multiple artifacts that are related to it, but not so broad that your virtual exhibit lacks focus or coherence. For example, you cannot simply select “ancient Israel” as a theme. On the other hand, a theme such as “home-based sacrifice in the first temple period” might be too narrow for you to be able to find enough diverse artifacts.

SELECTING ARTIFACTS

You must include 6–8 artifacts in your exhibit.

Of these 6–8 artifacts, at least 3 must be from ancient Israel or Judea. The rest can originate in the Northern Levant, Mesopotamia, Egypt, or Anatolia.

What do I mean by ancient Israel and/or Judea?

- **Time period:** 1200 BCE–70CE
- **Geography:** the Southern Levant between the Sinai peninsula and the mountains south of the Beqaa valley (roughly midway through modern Lebanon), and west of the Jordan/Dead Sea Valley.
- **Israel and Judea:** Technically, the kingdom of ancient Israel existed from around 1200–550 BCE. In the Second Temple period (550 BCE–70 CE) we typically refer to the same geographical area as “Judea.” This is, in large part, because many of the documents from that time period use that name, and they often use “Judeans” instead of Israelites.

An important note: some museums label artifacts from ancient Israel as coming from the Levant. Remember: Levant is a term for a broader geographical region that includes ancient Israel. Artifacts from the Levant during the time frame in which ancient Israel existed will count toward the required 3 from ancient Israel.

If you select objects from the Northern Levant (north of the Beqaa valley), Mesopotamia, Egypt, or Anatolia: in your description of the artifact, you must discuss how it is related to ancient Israel. It could be that it mentions ancient Israel, or that it is a better-preserved example of something that we know existed in ancient Israel, or that it shows a marked difference from what we know of ancient Israel. Whatever the reason you chose the object, you do have to discuss how it relates to both your theme and ancient Israel.

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Diversity of artifacts is important! The artifacts you select should be of different types. For example, this means that you cannot include 2 or 3 different versions of a four-horned altar. Instead, if you were doing an exhibit on sacrifice, you might want to include a four-horned altar, a flat hewn-stone altar, and an incense stand.