

Museums in the United States:

1) THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART (NYC)

- Ancient Near Eastern Art page: <https://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-met/curatorial-departments/ancient-near-eastern-art>

This page contains an overview of the ancient Near Eastern art department and its holdings, and has a number of educational resources about many of its holdings.

- Searchable online gallery:

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search#!?q=ancient%20near%20east>

Here you can filter by geographic region, time period, and type/material of the artifact. You can also search for more specific items with keywords. Make sure you are looking at artifacts from the ancient Near East, though!

2) BROOKLYN MUSEUM (BROOKLYN, NY)

- Highlights of the Egyptian, Classical, and Ancient Near Eastern Art gallery:

<https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/collections/5>

- Searchable online collection: <https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/collections>

The search features here are tricky and entering dates does not work particularly well. I would suggest searching for particular objects or locations and looking through the results to find things that fit the time frame you are interested in.

3) PENN MUSEUM (PHILADELPHIA, PA)

- Searchable Online Collection: <https://www.penn.museum/collections/>

Here "advanced search" will allow you to search by geographical region, time period, material, etc.

There is also an option to browse the collection geographically:

<https://www.penn.museum/collections/map/>

4) THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM (CHICAGO, IL)

- Searchable Online Catalog: <https://oi-idb.uchicago.edu/>

This catalog is very user-friendly and you can search by location, museum gallery, dating, etc. This museum does not have a lot of ancient Israel specific material, but there is quite a bit from Mesopotamia more broadly.

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- Interactive Virtual Tour of the Museum: <https://oi.uchicago.edu/virtualtour>

You can take the entire virtual tour or skip to specific galleries. The galleries most relevant for this class (depending on your topic) are:

- The Robert and Deborah Aliber Persian Gallery
- The Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery
- The Henrietta Herbolsheimer, M.D. Syro-Anatolian Gallery
- The Dr. Norman Solhkhah Family Assyrian Empire Gallery
- The Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery.

Museums in Israel

5) THE ISRAEL MUSEUM (JERUSALEM, ISRAEL)

- Searchable online gallery: <https://museum.imj.org.il/Imagine/collections/index.asp>

The following departments are likely to yield the most useful artifacts for this project:

- Chalcolithic and Canaanite Periods (for very early, pre-Israel materials)
- Classical Archaeology
- Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine periods (for late Second Temple period materials)
- Israelite and Persian Periods (for First Temple period and early Second Temple period materials)
- Shrine of the Book (for Dead Sea Scrolls Related Materials)

If you are interested in the Dead Sea Scrolls, you may also want to look at the online version of the exhibit: "A Day at Qumran"

Museums in Europe

6) THE BRITISH MUSEUM (LONDON, ENGLAND)

The online catalog for this museum is less user-friendly, but if you're willing to work through the clunky nature of the website, there is a lot of material here.

Searchable online gallery:

https://research.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/search.aspx

I recommend doing an "advanced search" and putting in "Levant" for the geographical region (or Assyria, Babylonia, Egypt, etc. if you are looking for artifacts from Israel's neighbors). Be sure to put a date range in the advanced search as well – do not extend beyond 1000 BC – 1AD, but

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you'll likely want to reduce your timeframe some depending on what your particular topic for your mini-exhibit is.

7) THE LOUVRE (PARIS, FRANCE)

- Atlas Database of Exhibits

Levant: http://cartelen.louvre.fr/cartelen/visite?srv=sal_frame&idSalle=120&langue=en

Mesopotamia: http://cartelen.louvre.fr/cartelen/visite?srv=sal_frame&idSalle=101&langue=en

This is a virtual version of the different exhibits in the Louvre that goes room-by-room through the museum. Clicking on an artifact in the list gives more information about that object and for some objects there are more in-depth notes by the exhibit's curators. This is in English, though I suspect there is a French version, too.

- Searchable Online collection: https://www.louvre.fr/en/moteur-de-recherche-oeuvres?f_search_art=near+eastern+antiquities

I recommend searching for "Near Eastern Antiquities." This yields about 350 results and is a manageable number to browse through quickly. You can also refine your search from there by sorting by date, title, etc.

Google Arts & Culture

General page: <https://artsandculture.google.com/explore>

User-created gallery on the ancient Near East:

https://artsandculture.google.com/usergallery/PwJSO1I7pYg_Jw

This website gathers materials from collaborating museums across the world. It can be a little difficult to find things through the "explore" tab, but the search feature works quite well. You can search for things like "ancient Israel" "Levant" "ancient Near East" "mesopotamia" "sacrifice" "ritual" "pottery" and so forth. There are also user-created lists of ancient Near Eastern art. You can browse these to find objects, too.