



Some Natural Resources Used in Old Babylonia

Student Name _____ Date _____

The [Natural Resources Map](http://www.mesopotamia.co.uk/geography/explore/natres.html) [<http://www.mesopotamia.co.uk/geography/explore/natres.html>] (available through a link from [The Oriental Institute: The University of Chicago](#)) shows where many source of materials were located in the Middle East and beyond. Some of the materials may be unfamiliar to your students. They include:

Bitumen: a naturally occurring residue from underground oil deposits used in construction and manufacture, and to waterproof boats. A tarry, asphalt-like substance.

Calcite: a relatively soft stone which could be formed into bowls and cylinder seals. Objects were often made from a mixture of ground calcite, quartz, and bitumen

Carnelian: a type of quartz ranging in color from orange to red to brown. It was often used for making beads and seals for imprinting in wax or clay.

Cedar: a relatively lightweight and naturally fragrant wood excellent for many uses in building.

Chlorite: highly desired mineral for bowl carving.

Copper: used for decorative and practical objects. But, more importantly, the principal alloy in bronze, from which weapons were made.

Hematite: a form of iron ore widely used for cylinder seals and other objects in Old Babylonia. Iron did not become important until after Hammurabi.

Lapis Lazuli: a semi-precious blue stone

Obsidian: A hard, glossy volcanic stone that can be chipped, similarly to flint, to make sharp-edged tools such as arrow-heads, spear points, and knives.