

## Lesson 2.2 Museum Visit-Yale University Art Gallery Ancient Americas Collection



Branford High School students study Mesoamerican objects with Dr. Megan O'Neil at the Yale University Art Gallery, 2012

### Objectives

During the class field trip to the Yale University Art Gallery, students will have an opportunity to visit the new installation of the Ancient Americas collection. They will continue their exploration of Mexican cuisine by visiting the gallery and searching for objects related to food. Students will:

- examine the collection and create a list of themes represented in the collection
- create a list of objects related to food cultivation, preparation and rituals, that are located in the Pre-columbian collection
- sketch one object and create an object label that identifies the object by: title of the object, date, place of creation, materials of the object, usage, accession dates and donor information
- explain why they selected this object and how it contributes to their understanding of Maya culture

### Essential Questions

How does art reflect a civilization's most important ideas and traditions?  
How can we learn about Mexican cuisine across time by studying ancient artifacts?  
How do museums organize collections of artifacts and identify the pieces?

### Assessment

Students will write a reflective essay in which they

1. describe personal impressions of the museum experience
2. explain what they learned about the Maya by studying the museum collection
3. identify specific artifacts that exemplify concepts and themes that were important to the Maya