

## Follow-up 4

# Writing on different shapes

**Objectives:** To demonstrate that different people use different shapes to write on so that the contents are recognizable. To understand how epigraphers begin to understand ancient scripts and languages.

**Materials:** Pictures of different shaped Indus seals, cuneiform tablets, modern book with writing, telephone directory, coins, texts in different languages, etc.

**Class set-up:** Class discussion, individual work

**Vocabulary:** Seal, communication.

**Activity:** Remind the pupils that the people of ancient India used different shaped metal or stone seals to record different types of information. Ask the class why this might be useful.

- *Why use different shapes for different kinds of information?*
- *Why would it be useful to use different shapes?*
- *Why might we use different shapes to communicate today?*

Show the class the modern examples.

- *What kind of information would you expect to find on this?*
- *How did you know that without looking inside/reading the text?*

Ask the pupils to look around the classroom and find different objects with writing on.

- *How does the shape help you decide what is written on it?*

Ask each pupil to draw up a table with the range of objects, sizes and uses.

**Background Information:**

**How to decipher an unknown script**

**Seals**

**Writing**

**Language**