

## Learning About Ancient Roman Symbols

**For caregivers:** The Anthropology Museum at the University of Winnipeg has a collection of hundreds of artefacts from ancient Egypt, Israel, and Palestine (you can learn more about them here: <https://news-centre.uwinnipeg.ca/all-posts/the-adventures-of-the-hetherington-collection/>). Many of them come from the period when the Romans ruled these areas. Many of these objects are oil lamps, which are decorated with symbols that were meaningful to their ancient users. In this assignment, students can think about the symbols that surround them, and which ones are meaningful to them, while learning about some of the symbols that mattered to the ancient peoples of these areas.

You can find pictures of more of our objects at @uwluxproject on Instagram. If you'd like, you can share your drawings/coloring pages with Dr. Melissa Funke, the director of the Lux Project at the University of Winnipeg, through email ([m.funke@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:m.funke@uwinnipeg.ca)), Instagram (the handle above), or Twitter (@TheLuxProject1). You can also email Dr. Funke with any questions you have, or for further information about the lamps and the ancient Romans.

**For kids:** Look at the symbols that surround us in our daily lives. These might be sports logos, fast food restaurants, our favourite coffee chain, or religious symbols. The people who lived in the Roman Empire were just like us in that they had symbols that were easily recognizable in their lives. They incorporated some of these symbols in their art and in daily items like lamps.

Come up with a list of the symbols that you see daily or symbols that are important to your daily life. Think about sports teams, food companies, and religious symbols.

What are the common symbols in our lives? What symbols can you find around the house?

Now it's your turn!

**My symbols:**

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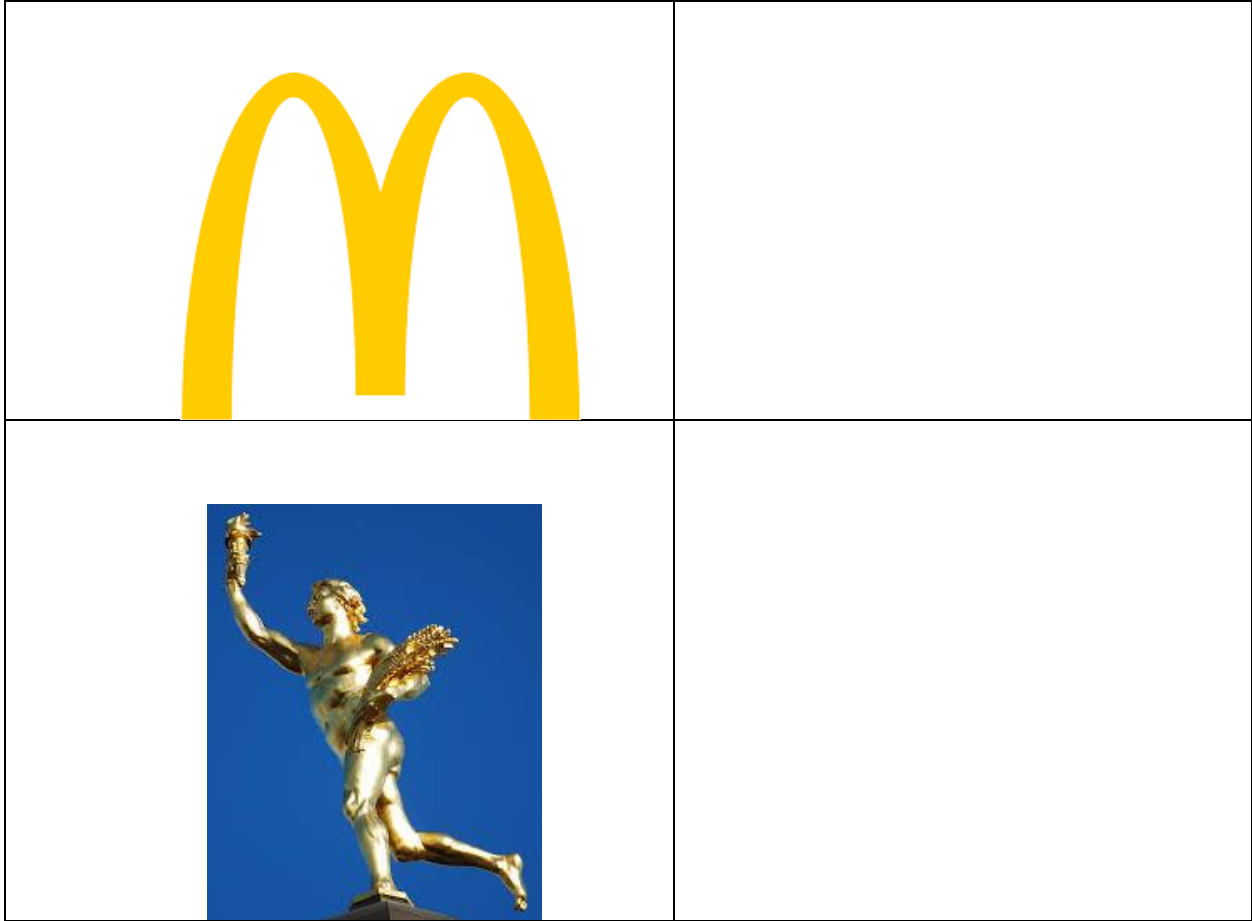
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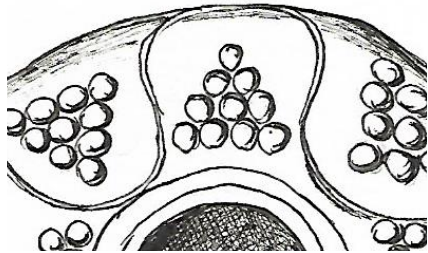
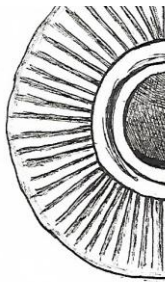
**Name that Symbol:**

Below are pictures of common symbols and your job is to write what each picture is.

 The logo for the Winnipeg Jets, featuring a stylized white and gold 'WJ' with a blue and gold football integrated into the design.	
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 The Starbucks logo, featuring a green circular emblem with a white mermaid (Siren) and a crown with a star.	



Now here are some symbols from some ancient Roman lamps. What do they look like to you?



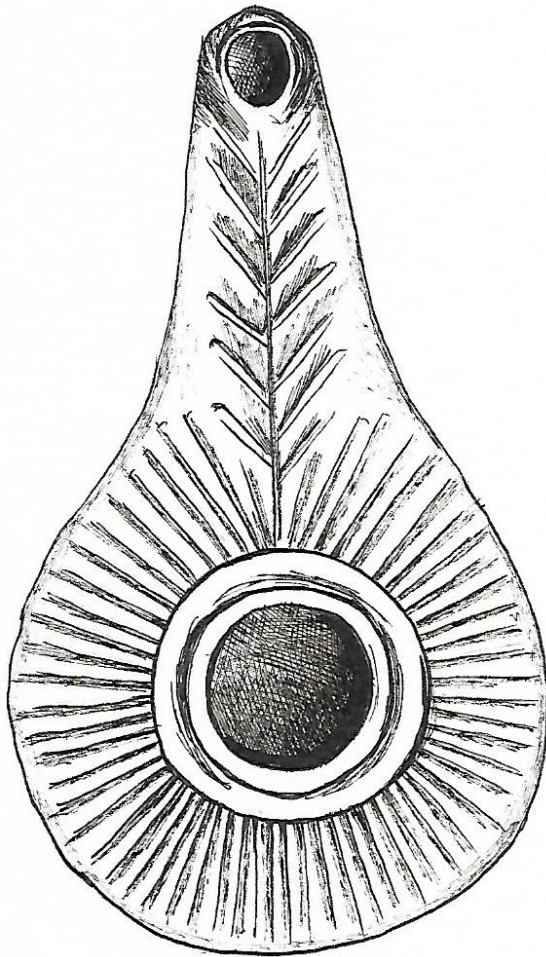
**Coloring Page:**

Here you can see the full symbols from the top of the lamps. Color them in!

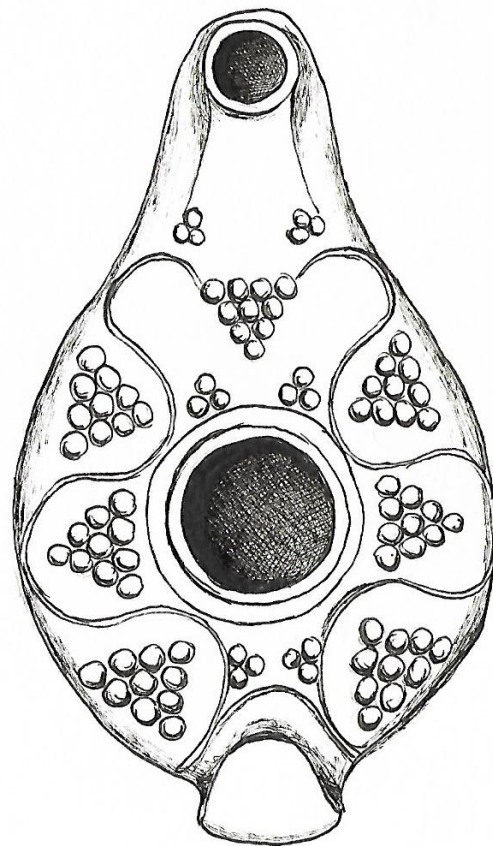
The hole in the middle is to pour in olive oil (the lamp's fuel) and the hole at the front is for the wick (the part that is lit on fire).

These lamps come from the areas that are now known as Israel and Palestine. What plants grow there? What did the ancient Romans in those areas use grapes for?

Palm fronds



Grapes and grapevines



**Draw Your Own!**

What's a symbol that's important to you? Make a pattern from it and draw it onto the blank lamp below or make up your own symbol based on something important to you. When you're done, send a picture to Dr. Funke!

