



Lighting Through History: An Inquiry into the ways in which humankind has found ways to make light in the darkness.

Introduction	
<p>As second graders, we will use the Peacock Oil Lamp from the Byzantine Empire in Turkey between the 5th-7th centuries to launch an inquiry into the different ways humans have made light through history, and how light and fire is used in symbolism around the world.</p>	
<p>Indiana Standards Connections:</p> <p>Science Standards K-2-ETS1-1. Ask questions, make observations, and gather information about a situation people want to change to define a simple problem that can be solved through the development of a new or improved object or tool.</p>	<p>Compelling Question(s):</p> <p>What did humans do before they could make light? Does that seem like a problem you would want to fix? How did they discover they could create fire, therefore light? How has the initial discovery of fire evolved to the ways in which we create light in the 21st century? What has the driving force behind that evolution been (safety, environmental impact)?</p>
<p>Lesson Objectives:</p> <p>Students can explain the purpose of an oil lamp over history, and the role they still play today, in written form. Students can articulate the important symbolism that fire and light play in communities and traditions.</p>	
Materials	
<p>W2W site and links Glass jars, salt, oil and string/cotton</p>	
Learning Plan	
<p>Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Show pictures of the peacock oil lamp without explanation, invite students to wonder what the object may be used for, then reveal an overall history of the peacock oil lamp, including the origin and locating Turkey on the globe.2. Wondering poster—have students wonder aloud after being asked the above compelling questions and record on chart paper to refer back to throughout the unit.3. Explore how lamps and candles are used in various traditions: Menorah at Hanukkah, Diya Lamps for Diwali, practice of putting lights up for Christmas and Ramadan.	

Make an oil lamp at home (example tutorial:

 [DIY SALT AND OIL LAMP | WAXLESS CANDLE | DIY Candle Using Rock Sa...](#)

Assessment Suggestions

Students will be able to write one paragraph with an illustration about the role that oil lamps, lights and candles play in history and in modern day life.

Extensions

Attach inquiry into the Where We are in Place and Time IB unit by putting the Byzantine Era on visual timeline, marking Turkey on the map, etc. Discussion and implementation of possible ideas surrounding ways in which we can use light in our classroom to create our preferred environment.