Making A Lasting Impression

A cylinder seal is a small cylinder-shaped object, typically about one inch (about half the size of your thumb) in length. Written words, pictures, or both would be engraved onto the seal. In ancient times, seals would be rolled onto wet clay to create an impression. It was like having your very own signature stamp!

This shows the engraved carvings that would be rolled onto wet clay! Each seal owner would have a personalized design.

This shows what the carvings would look like after the seal was rolled over wet clay.

MATERIALS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clay/dough (recipe to <a href="#">make-your-own</a>)</th>
<th>Construction Paper or Card Stock</th>
<th>Tooth pick (if using clay/playdough)</th>
<th>Writing Utensil</th>
<th>Tape (if using paper)</th>
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CREATE YOUR CYLINDER SEAL:

**STEP ONE:** If you want to make a cylinder seal from paper, fold a piece of construction paper in half horizontally (“hot dog style”) so that the corners of the long ends touch each other. If you are using clay or dough, roll it into a cylinder shape that is about the length of your thumb and as wide as a quarter. This should give you plenty of space to carve.

**STEP TWO:** Draw a line along the middle of your folded paper, or carve a line along the middle of your clay cylinder. You will draw/carve images on the top and bottom of this border.

**STEP THREE:** On the top half of your seal, you are going to choose three pictures or emojis that describe YOU. Draw/carve those out carefully with your writing utensil (paper) or toothpick (clay.) **NOTE:** Words and some pictures need to be drawn BACKWARDS so they appear the right way when you roll out your seal. Think about drawing/carving the mirror image of your picture!

**STEP FOUR:** Now for the bottom half! Think of three pictures or emojis that you think describe YOUR FAMILY. Draw/carve these the same way that you did on the top of your seal. Make sure to space them out so you do not have large blank spots.

**STEP FIVE:** Add any last designs that you would like to go onto your seal. Make it your own style!

**STEP SIX:** If you used paper, tape the short ends of your seal together so that you have a cylinder. If you used clay, let it dry overnight. Once dry, roll it over another piece of clay to see your impression!