Babylonian numbers

In this activity we explore the number system of the ancient Babylonians.

The ancient Babylonians used cuneiform characters to write their numbers.

Exercise 1 *What are the 2 basic ancient Babylonian numerical symbols and what do they mean?*

Exploration 2 *Discuss the limitations of the Babylonian system. Then debate whether these so-called limitations were actually limitations at all.*

Exploration 3 *Is the Babylonian system more of a place-value system or a concatenation system?*

Problem 4 *Fill out the following table, simplifying any calculations.*

$Hindu-Arabic$	$Cuneiform$	$Hindu-Arabic$	$Cuneiform$	$Hindu-Arabic$	$Cuneiform$
5×1		5×2		5×3	
5×4		5×5		5×6	
5×7		5×8		5×9	
5×10		5×20		5×30	
5×40		5×50		$\dfrac{1}{5}$	
$\dfrac{1}{4}$		$\dfrac{1}{9}$		$\dfrac{1}{10}$	
$\dfrac{5}{6}$		$\dfrac{1}{20}$		$\dfrac{1}{100}$	

Problem 5 *Use your table to make the following calculations. You should work in base sixty, though you may use Hindu-Arabic numerals.*

(a) 34×5

(b) $1,47 \div 5$

(c) $150 \div 4$

(d) $8,6,15 \div 6,40$