

History of Glassblowing

Glassblowing is a very old art. It began about four thousand years ago in Mesopotamia (mehs-uh-puh-TAY-mee-uh).



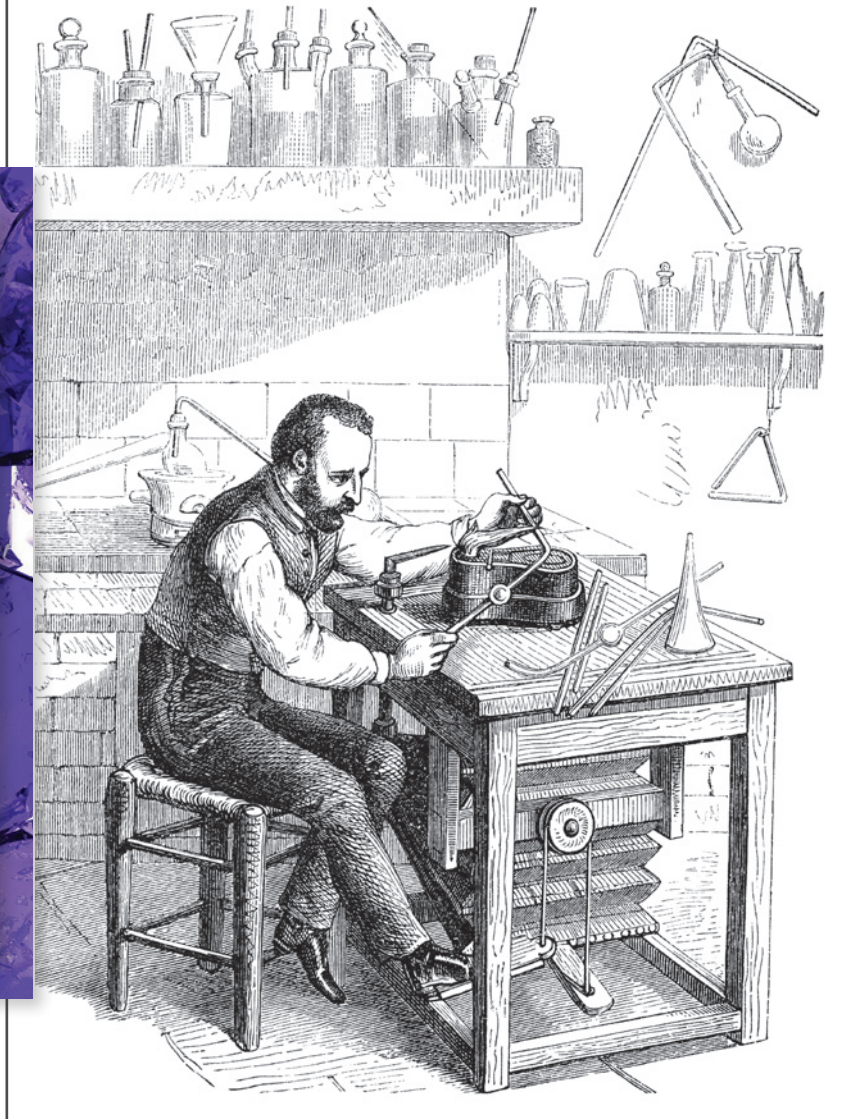


The first popular use of glass was in ancient Rome. This is because the first metal pipe for blowing glass was invented in Rome. The Romans were able to make glass easily and skillfully.

A New World of Glass



Glassblowing was one of the first businesses in the New World. Captain John Smith brought **gaffers** from Europe.



Gaffers are glassblowers.
They built their factory near the
sandy shores of Jamestown.



More people knew how to blow glass in the past than people know how to do so today.



glassblowing—today

But modern gaffers still blow glass in much of the same way gaffers did long ago.