



اللوفر أبو ظبي
LOUVRE ABU DHABI



The Young Visitors' Discovery Cards

**Animals, Between
Real and Imaginary!**

Children's Museum



Introduction

Welcome to Animals, Between Real and Imaginary!

The exhibition explores how the proximity of mankind and animals sharing the same world has always been a source of inspiration for artists.

Animals have been depicted in all periods since humans first started drawing on cave walls. Throughout history and across the world, artists used a wide variety of materials and techniques to represent both real and imaginary animals.

The exhibition presents works from the collection of Louvre Abu Dhabi and others that have been loaned by different museums.

During your visit, explore the purpose of each animal and why they are represented in the works of art.

Use **The Discovery Cards** with your family, among friends or as part of a school trip, both in the museum and after the visit.

Enjoy your visit, and please remember:

- Walk carefully.
- Hungry or thirsty? Please wait until the end of your visit, and enjoy a meal in the Museum Café.
- No food or drinks allowed in the gallery.
- Please use your pencils to complete the discovery cards.

Have fun!



Gemellion with a Blazon

Look closely at the centre of the gemellion; it is decorated with a coat of arms: a red lion on a white shield.

The lion in this gemellion appears in profile standing on its back legs. **How does it make you feel? Does it look real? Unreal? Maybe frightening? What attributes does the lion represent to you?**

This lion shield is a coat of arms; the emblem of a powerful family! **Why do you think they used a lion?**



Find the little holes!

*Armorial gemellion
France, Limoges, 13th century
Enameled and gilt copper
Louvre Abu Dhabi*

Did You Know?

A **shield** was carried by knights during the Middle Ages to protect them in battle.

The **Coat of Arms** is the emblem (here a red lion) that identify a lord and his family.

A **blazon** is made up of a shield and a coat of arms together.

Gemellion comes from the Latin word *gemellus*, meaning twin. They are pairs of basins that were used for washing hands.

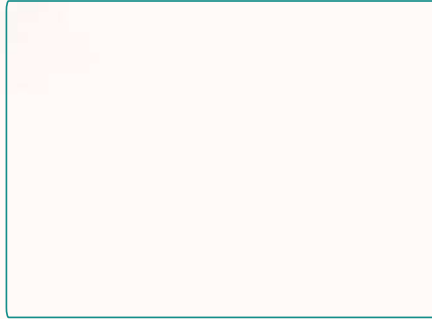


Decorate a gemellion with your own blazon!

Choose your colours



Choose your emblem

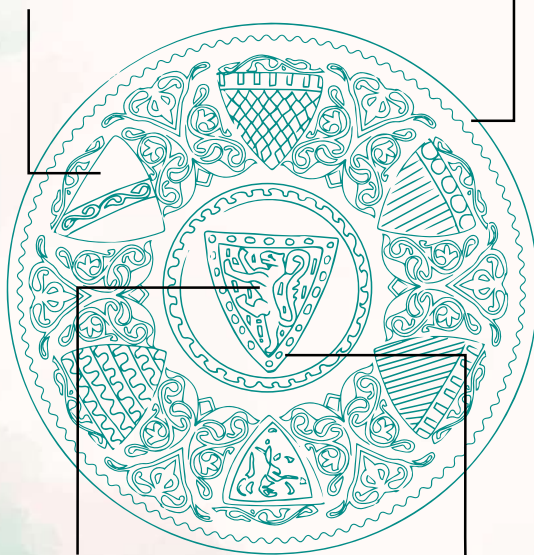


Decorate your blazon



Shield

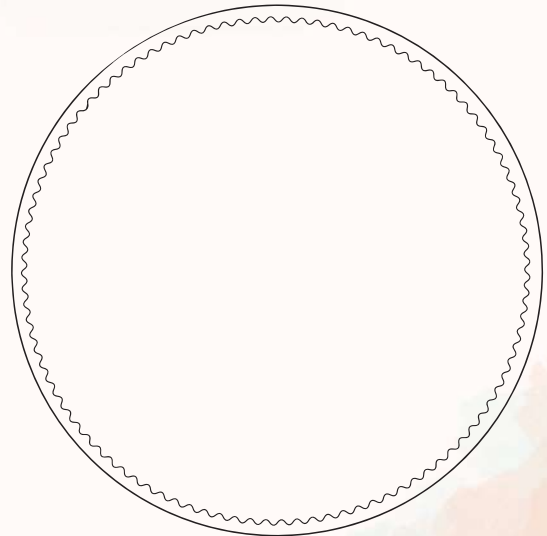
Gemellion



Coat of Arms:
Colours + Emblem

Blazon:
Shield + Coat of Arms

Decorate this gemellion with your blazon



Hint: It symbolizes strength, bravery, courage and nobility.

The Bird-shaped Askos

An **askos** is a single-handled jug with a spout in the shape of a bird.

Why do you think it is shaped like a bird with a neck and beak?

The people who used the askos were called the Etruscans, who created zoomorphic containers.

Can you guess what zoomorphic means?

The Etruscans used an askos to pour small quantities of refined scented oil.

Can you think of another purpose for the use of the askos?



© RMN-Grand Palais (musée du Louvre) / Hervé Lewandowski

Look at the duck and how the details of its feathers are represented.

*Askos in a shape of a bird
Italy, Etruscan period
Clay*

*Paris, Musée du Louvre, Department of Greek,
Etruscan and Roman Antiquities*

Did You Know?

The Etruscans

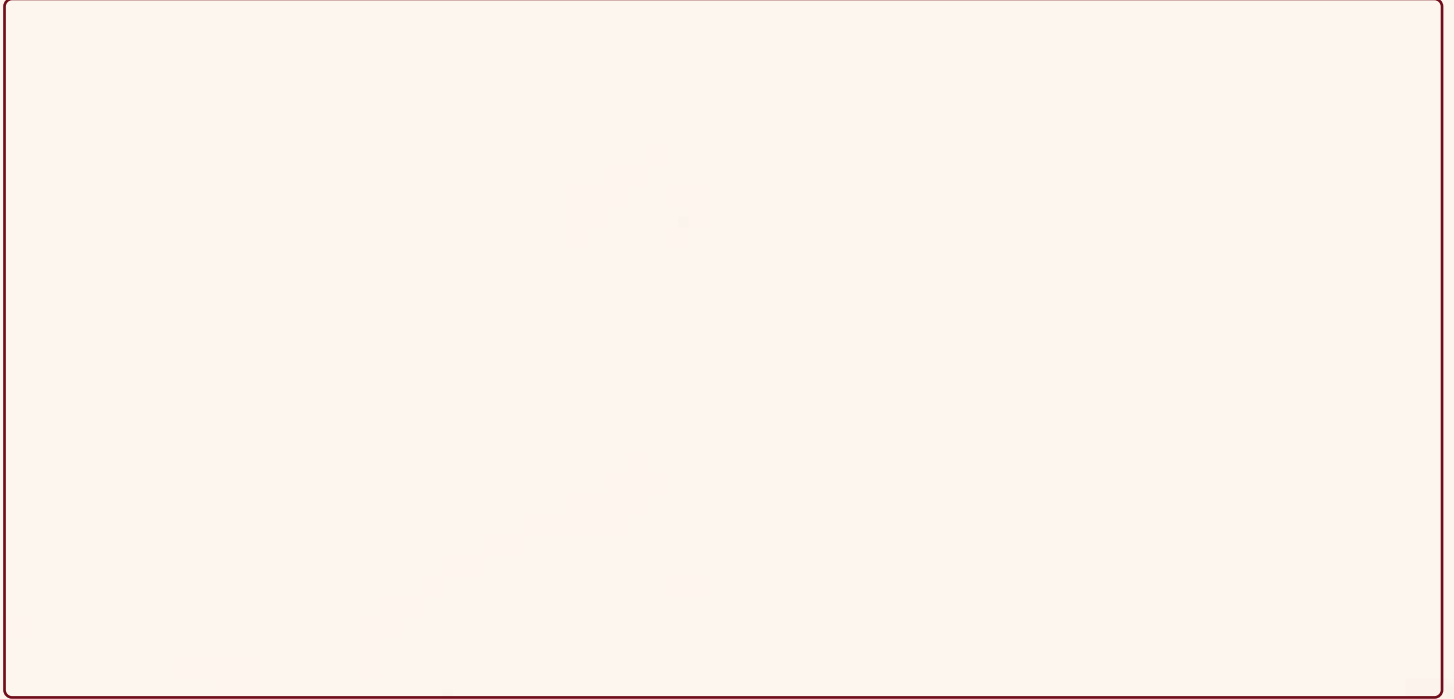
People who lived in the middle of the Italian peninsula (ca. 700-300 BCE), and were very influenced by the Eastern culture.

The Etruscans held magnificent feasts and cared for their bodies with refined oils and perfumes.



Imagine your own *askos*!

Which animal will you choose to create your askos?
What animal features will you add to make your askos functional?
Draw your askos and decorate it.

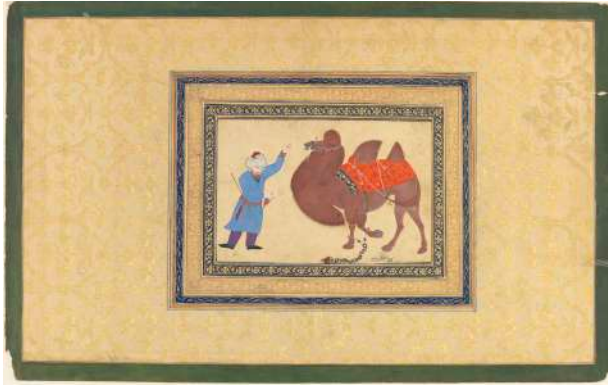


Hint 3: An askos was also used to fill oil lamps so they could see in the dark.

Hint 2: Zoomorphic: representation of animal forms.

Hint 1: An askos is shaped like a bird to make it easy to pour the oil it holds in its belly.

The Miniature with a Camel



© Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi / APF

What is the caravan driver doing?

*Bactrian camel and keeper
Muhammad Husayn-al-Katib
Iran, around 1560-1570
Watercolour with gold on paper
Louvre Abu Dhabi*

In this miniature painting, a bactrian camel is chained to show that it has been tamed by a caravan driver.

Why do you think camels were used for travelling?

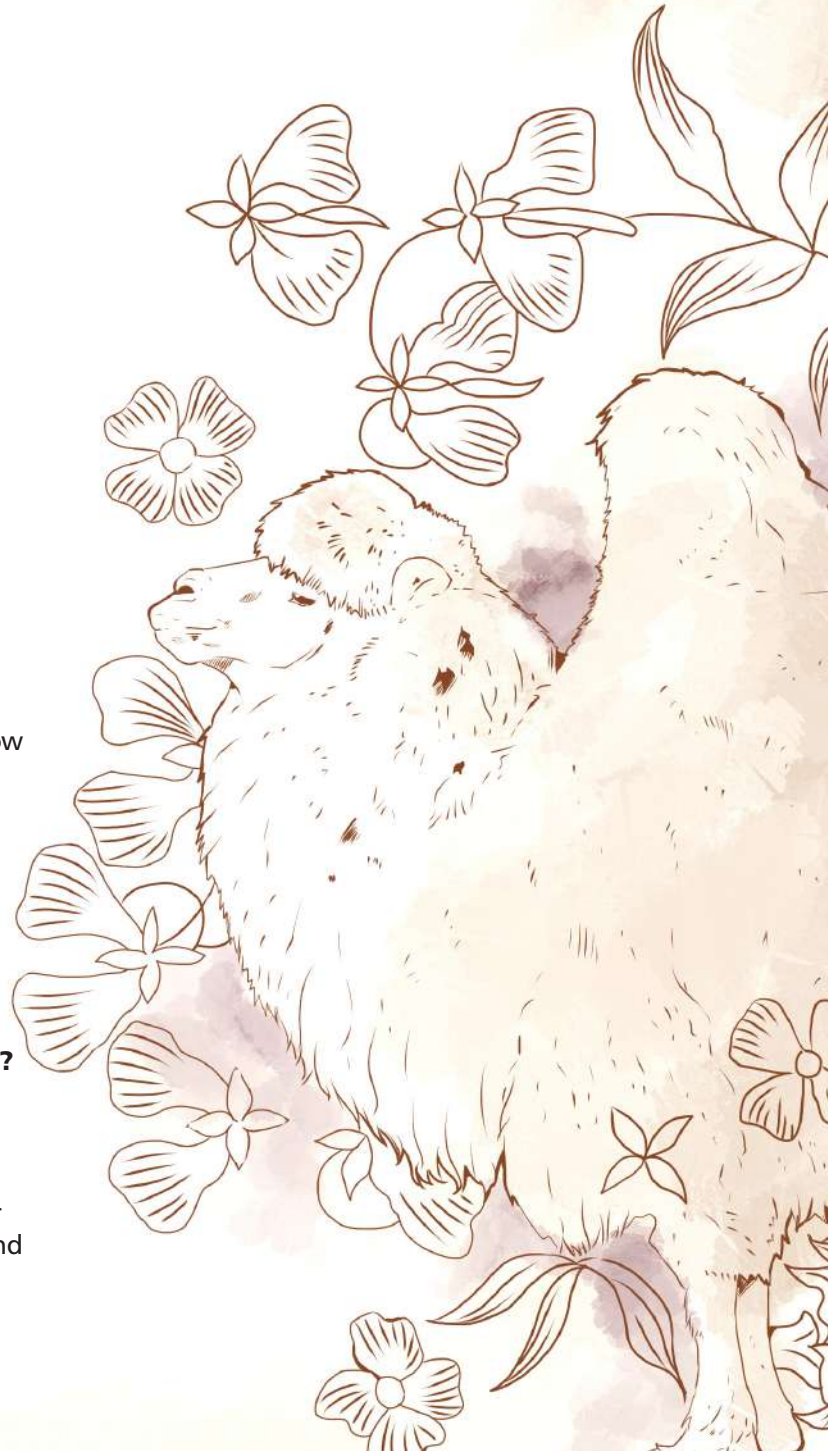
Can you think of other uses of the camel?

Notice the camel in the painting. **How is it different from the camels you see in the UAE?**

Bactrian camels have thick fleece – **why do you think that is?**

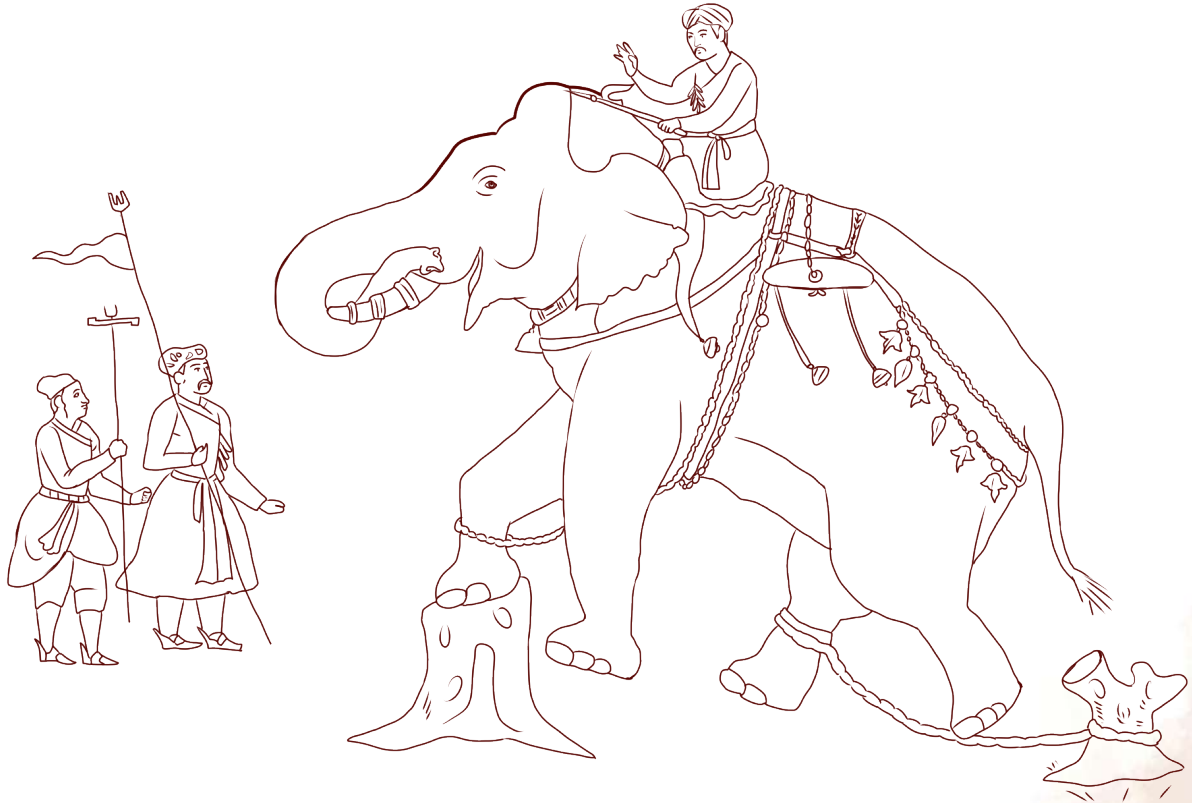
Did You Know?

Domestication of the camel was a very important step for mankind for many reasons such as transporting people and goods across the desert.



Illuminate Your Miniature!

Miniatures are very colourful works.
This one needs more colour, don't you think?
Colour it in to make it bright and beautiful at home!



Hint 3: When the temperature rises, they lose their fleece. The wool is then used to make fabrics or sold by wool merchants.

Hint 2: They have thick fleece because they live in the mountains.

Hint 1: Bactrian camels are the largest type of camels with two humps on their backs.

The Rooster From The Kingdom Of Benin



© Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi / Thierry Olivier



A hole between the bird's feet, allowed offerings like kola nuts to be made. Can you see the hole?

Rooster
Nigeria, 18th century
Bronze
Louvre Abu Dhabi

In the Kingdom of Benin (Nigeria today), roosters were used to pay tribute to the King's mother, called the **lyoba**, or Queen Mother of Benin. This title was given to the wife who gave the king his first male child.

The eldest wife of the king was called the **Eson**, meaning the "rooster who sings the loudest", as she told the king's other wives what to do and settled their arguments.

It is interesting that the rooster is a male animal, yet it represents a mother queen here, don't you agree?

Did You Know?

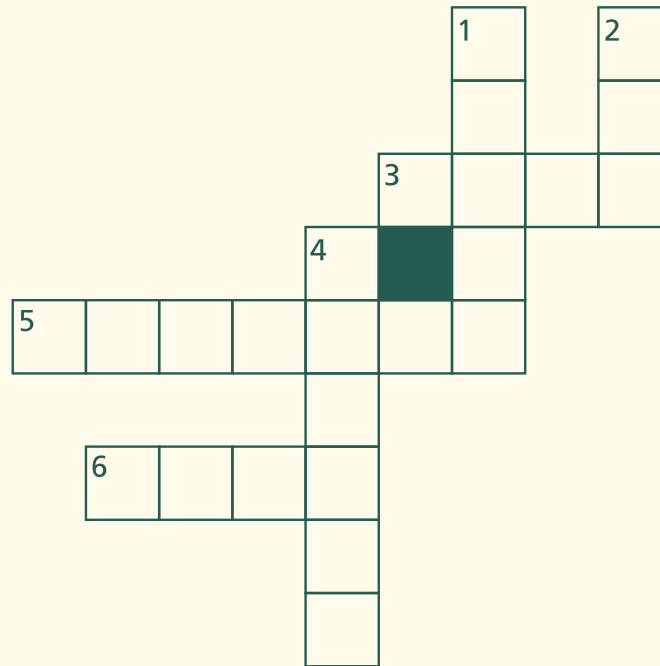
The **Edo** (the name of the inhabitants of the kingdom) were ruled by the **Oba** (the King) and his court.

Bronze objects like this sculpture were the most excellent works of art in the court.

Bronze roosters were placed on the altars of the ancestors.

Test your vocabulary!

Fill in this crossword using the words you learned during your trip to the Kingdom of Benin. Don't forget to read all the information in your card as well as that in the exhibition.



Horizontal

3. Nuts placed between the rooster's feet as offerings.
5. The country in which the Kingdom of Benin was located.
6. Eldest wife of the King.

Vertical

1. Nickname given to the Queen Mother of Benin.
2. The King
4. Material used in making the rooster.

The Hippopotamus Of Egypt



© Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi / Thierry Ollivier

Can you spot the flower painted on the hippopotamus?

*Hippopotamus
Egypt, circa 1850 BC
Faïence
Louvre Abu Dhabi*

Hippopotamuses used to live in the Nile river in Egypt. This one was made in the times of the pharaohs.

Hippopotamuses are one of the most dangerous animals in Africa. They can be very destructive, turn over boats and eat the crops in the fields.

Take a closer look at the motifs used to decorate its body. What do they look like?

Did You Know?

Hippopotamuses represented rebirth and were placed in the tombs of important people to ensure the deceased's rebirth in the afterlife.

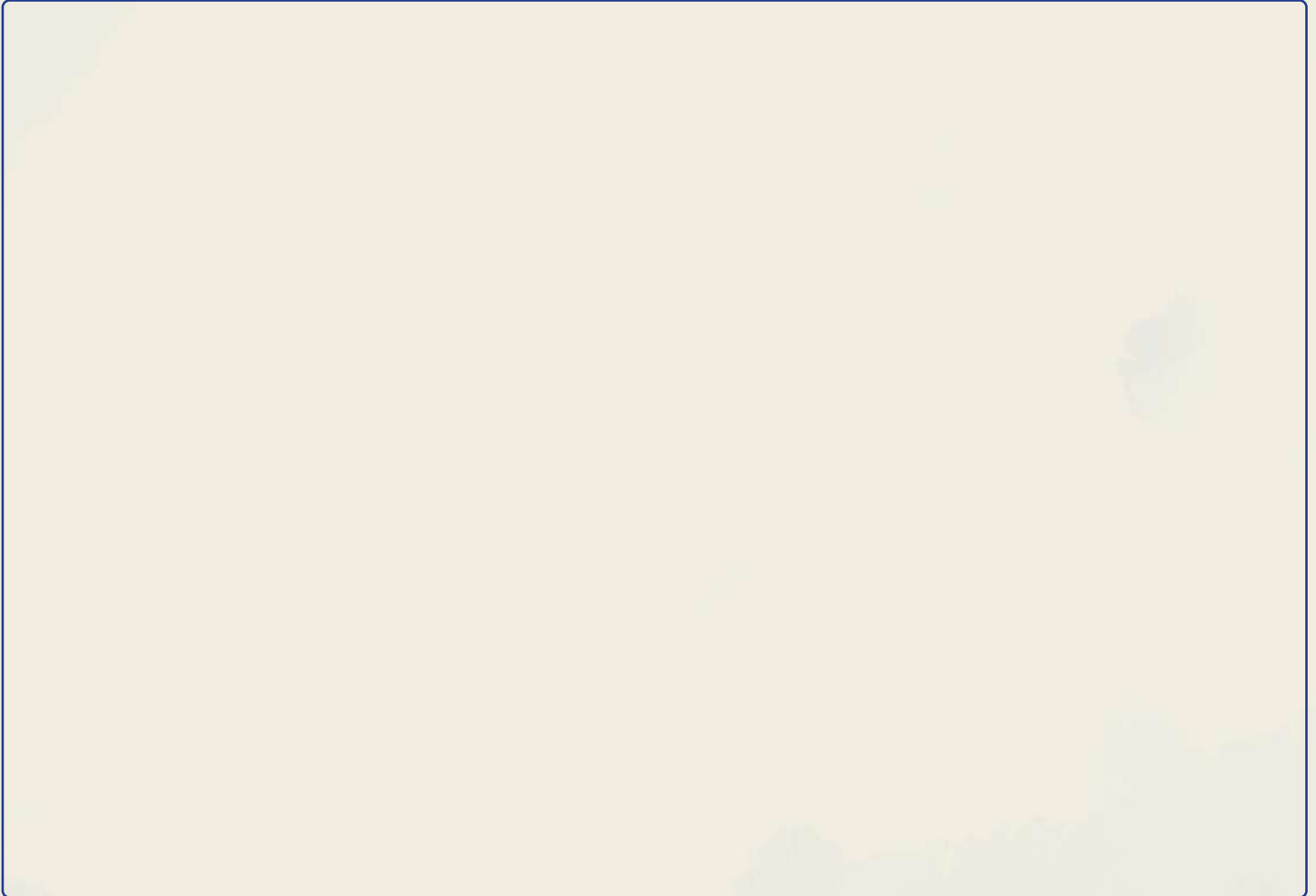
According to Egyptian myths, the lotus flower (painted on its back) was the origin of life on Earth.



An Animal And Its Natural Environment

For example, a tiger lives in the forest. So it could be shown green covered with vegetation.

Draw your favourite animal and decorate it based on where it lives and what surrounds it.



Hint: This bright blue hippopotamus is covered with black plant motifs as if it appears under the water, partly covered by river plants.

The Plate with Chimeras

The imaginary animal shown on this plate is called a griffin: part lion and part eagle. In old Greek myths, griffins used to guard gold mines on the other side of the earth.

Knowing the special powers lions and eagles possess, can you think of other powers the griffin may have?

Take a look at their positions; what are these griffins doing?

What covers their bodies?

Do they reflect any particular feeling to you?

Did You Know?

In Greek mythology, the **chimera** was usually formed by the body of a lion and a goat and the tail of a snake.

The word "**chimera**" also means any imaginary hybrid animal.

The manner in which the chimeras are presented follows the example of medieval Islamic decoration.



Look at the plant motifs all around the chimeras. It is as though the artist wanted to avoid leaving any empty space. Can you think of any other reasons?

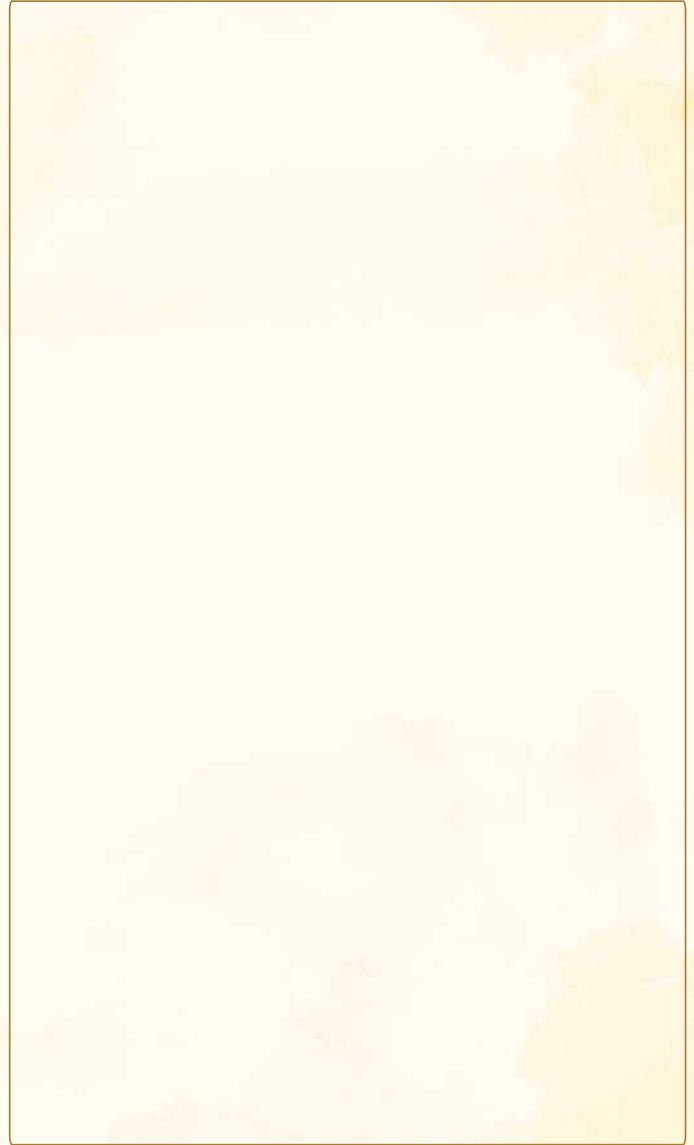
*Plate with two chimeras
William De Morgan
England, London, around 1890-1900
Clay ceramic decorated with metallic lustre
Louvre Abu Dhabi*



Who's who?

Look back at the chimera and the different animals that make it up.

Draw these animals seperately!



Now venture into the museum's collections!

Now that you have explored the Animals exhibition, take your parents and friends on a hunt for more animals inside the museum galleries!

Tick the works that you find below. If you do not find them all, you can always look again next time.



© Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi / Thierry Ollivier

Found

Rooster-headed ewer, 12th-13th century, Iran, Louvre Abu Dhabi

This is a rooster that is more stylised than the one from Benin. Like the askos in the form of a bird, this ewer is also zoomorphic.



© Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi / Thierry Ollivier

Found

Lion-shaped aquamanile, early 13th century, northern Germany, Louvre Abu Dhabi

An aquamanile is used for washing your hands, like a gemellion. This one is also in the form of a lion but it also includes another animal in the form of a monster. Can you find the monster in the aquamanile?



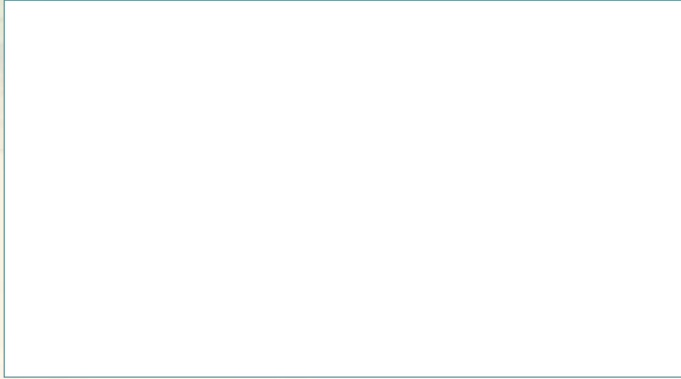
© Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi / Thierry Ollivier

Found

Bactrian horse Tang dynasty China 700–800 Ceramic glaze Louvre Abu Dhabi

This horse came originally from the same region as the Bactrian camel. The horse is a very important animal in Central Asian societies for their military and artistic use. They became a very important motif in ceramics and sculpture, as well as painting.

Note any animals that you may find that are not listed here.



Found



Found



Found



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Found

Mummy bandage, late 4th century BCE, Egypt, Louvre Abu Dhabi

This band of cloth was used to wrap mummies, like the bandages used for the cat.



© Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi / Thierry Ollivier

Dish with two birds, 10th century, Iran, Louvre Abu Dhabi

Like the plate with two chimeras, this dish is decorated with two animals. The two birds decorated on this dish are a combination of animal image and text.

Found



© Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi / Thierry Ollivier

Octagonal box, 8th century, China, Louvre Abu Dhabi

The top of this box is decorated with ducks. Find them and think back to the shape of the askos.

Found