

ACM

AN EXPLORER'S GUIDE TO  
**FANTASTIC  
CREATURES**  
AT ACM



This booklet belongs to

Suitable for ages 7 and up



# Hello Explorer, welcome to the Asian Civilisations Museum!

You'll see many interesting creatures around. Some of them are real life animals, while others are imaginary. They all seem to be hiding right now. Can you find them?

Here's a map that might help you. Have fun exploring!





# CAN YOU FIND ME?



Here's a hint: I'm swimming at the bottom of a cup in the Tang Shipwreck Gallery on Level 1 of the museum.



**Tick this box when you've found the object in the gallery.**

# YOU FOUND ME!



Stem cup  
China, probably Gongxian kilns, around 830s  
Stoneware

## WHAT CREATURE AM I?

- ☐ Fish
- ☐ Octopus
- ☐ Turtle

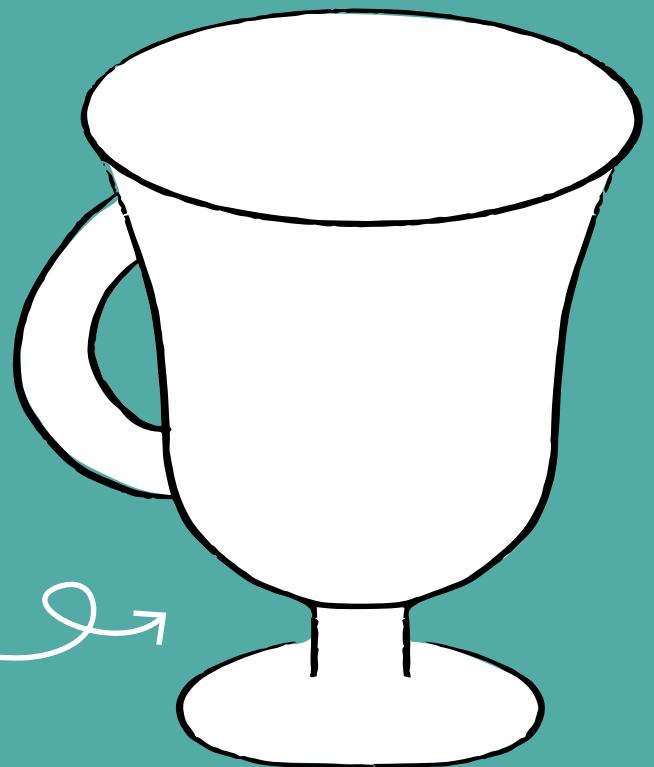
## MORE ABOUT ME

The Mandarin name for me – *yu* 鱼 – sounds like the word for “abundance” – *yu* 余 – so I am a lucky symbol of wealth and good fortune in Chinese culture.

This cup was made around 1,000 years ago by Chinese potters. It was found in the wreckage of a ship that was sailing from China to the Middle East. What colours do you see on this cup?

White ceramics with green splashes were popular with customers in the Middle East.

If you were to design a similar cup, what colours would you choose? How would you decorate it? Show us your special cup design here.



**As an added activity at home, try using air-dry clay to shape a cup of your own.**

# CAN YOU FIND ME?



Here's a hint: I decorate a bracelet in the Court and Company Gallery on Level 1 of the museum.



**Tick this box when you've found the object in the gallery.**

# YOU FOUND ME!



Elephant head bangles  
India, Benares, 19th century  
Gold with semi-precious gemstones  
and enamels

## WHAT CREATURE AM I?

- ☐ Tiger
- ☐ Rhinoceros
- ☐ Elephant

## MORE ABOUT ME

I am a popular animal motif in Indian art. I symbolise wisdom, power, and royalty.

In India, some kinds of jewellery are always worn in pairs. These colourful bracelets were made from gold and precious stones by skilled craftsmen during the Mughal Empire (1526–1761).

If you look carefully at the bracelets, you may even notice along the inside edges, a pattern of pink flowers.

Imagine you are wearing these bangles. Would they feel light or heavy? Warm or cold on your wrists?

Try making your own bracelet by following the instructions on the next page.



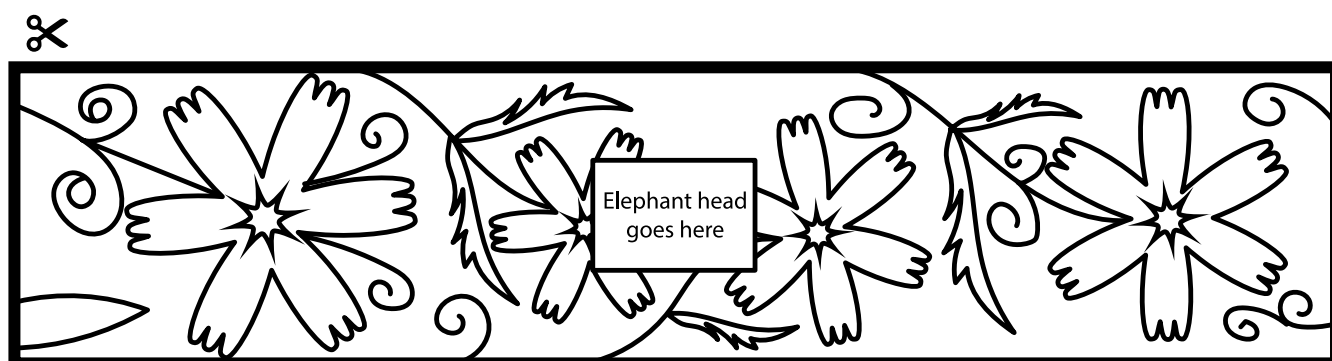
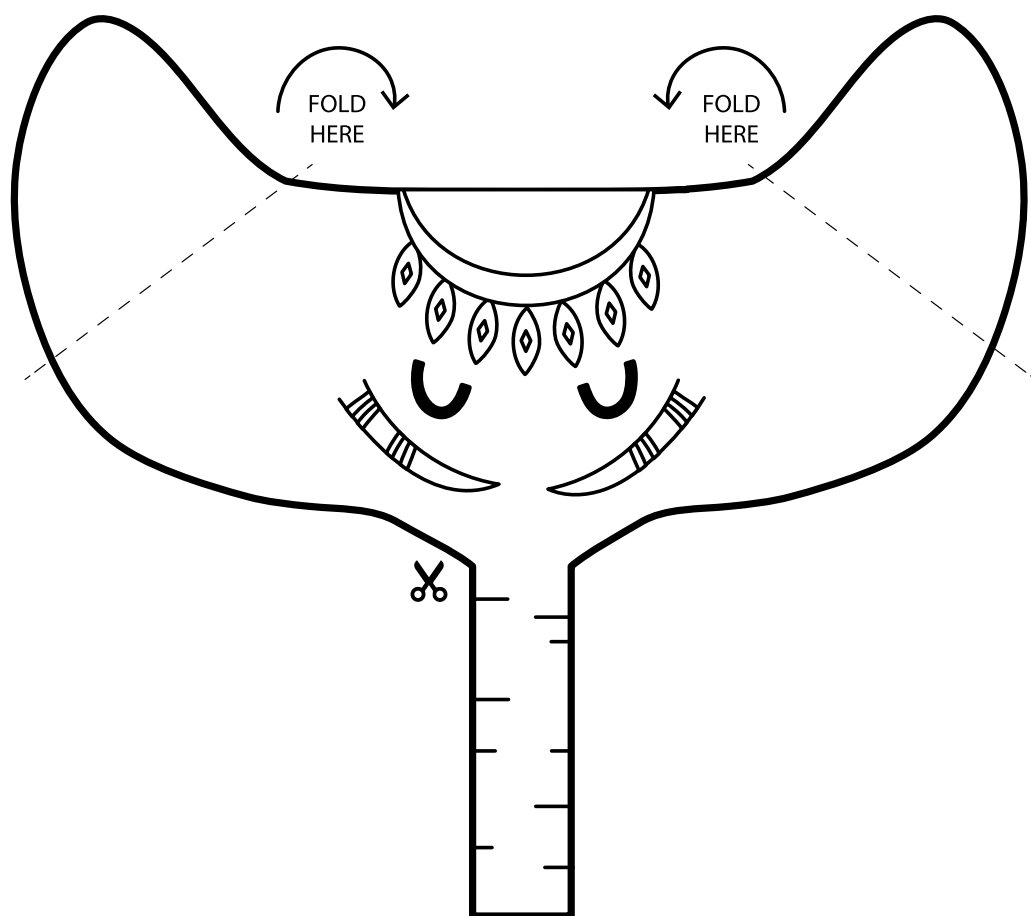
## Follow the steps below to make your own elephant-headed bracelet.

Colour and cut out the elephant head and the band. You can also use craft materials from home to add extra decorations.

Fold down the elephant ears, using the dotted lines as a guide.

Use glue or tape to attach the elephant head to the band.

Fasten the band around your wrist with glue or tape. The bracelet is complete!







# CAN YOU FIND ME?



Here's a hint: You can spot me near the entrance of the Ancestors and Rituals Gallery on Level 2 of the museum.



**Tick this box when you've found the object in the gallery.**

# YOU FOUND ME!



Offering vessel in the form of a hintha bird  
Myanmar, Mandalay, late 19th or early 20th century  
Lacquered and gilded wood, inlaid glass and mirrors

## WHAT CREATURE AM I?

- ☐ Rooster
- ☐ Hintha bird
- ☐ Swallow

## MORE ABOUT ME

I am a creature from Burmese legends, usually associated with royalty. The Hintha Gon Pagoda in Myanmar is named after me. It is said to mark the spot where I first landed in the city of Bago.

Look closely at this container shaped like a Hintha bird. It has a hollow body to hold offerings for Burmese monks. Can you see where it opens?

The container is covered in gold and decorated with tiny glass and mirror pieces. Can you picture it sparkling and glittering in the light?

Circle words that best describe this object to you. If you can think of other words to describe the object, write them down in the blanks below.

**Light**  
**Shiny**  
**Rough**

**Heavy**  
**Plain**  
**Smooth**

**Feeling inspired? Use your imagination to draw your own special bird.**

# CAN YOU FIND ME?



Here's a hint: I'm a marine animal made out of jade, and you can find me in the Scholar's Gallery on Level 2 of the museum.



**Tick this box when you've found the object in the gallery.**



# YOU FOUND ME!



Crab  
China, Qing dynasty (1644-1911)  
Jade

## WHAT CREATURE AM I?

- ☐ Lobster
- ☐ Crab
- ☐ Prawn

## MORE ABOUT ME

To the Chinese, I represent success, because the word for my shell – *jia* 甲 – also means “first” or “best”.

In ancient China, a scholar would have a studio where he might collect objects of inspiration to decorate his table, like this jade crab carving.

Do animals and nature inspire you?

**Here's a scholar's desk. Can you spot five differences?**  
**Circle each one.**



# CAN YOU FIND ME?



Here's a hint: I belong on a colourful dish in the Ceramics Gallery on Level 3 of the museum.



**Tick this box when you've found the object in the gallery.**

# YOU FOUND ME!



Dish with auspicious creatures  
China, Jingdezhen, Qing dynasty,  
Kangxi period (1662-1722)  
Porcelain

## WHAT CREATURE AM I?

- ☐ Qilin
- ☐ Dragon
- ☐ Lion

## MORE ABOUT ME

I'm a gentle and kind creature. Some people believe that I will appear in times of peace and prosperity.

A *qilin* 麒麟 is a mythical creature. Can you spot the *qilin* on this dish? It's next to another Chinese mythical creature – the phoenix. Because they are imaginary, artists make them up from parts of different real animals.

Solve the code to find out which animal parts make up this *qilin*!

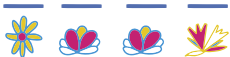
Head of a



Tail of an



Body of a



Hooves of a



Answer key: Head of a dragon, body of a deer, tail of an ox, hooves of a horse





**MISSION COMPLETE!**  
**Well done Explorer!**

**You've found all the five creatures in this activity book.**

If you're up for more adventure, see how many other interesting creatures you can find at ACM. Make a list or draw them in the space below. Do you have a favourite?



Illustrated by Jayne Ong

Developed by the ACM Audience Department  
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