

Top 10 Treasure Trail

Hello there, my name is Elias Ashmole. Welcome to my museum. It is named after me, and is over 330 years old. My portrait is in gallery 2 on the lower ground floor. Look out for me at the end of this trail.

Let's travel through time and across the world as we explore some wonderful objects here at the Ashmolean. This explorer trail will take you all over this big museum. So are you ready?



10



Samurai Helmet and Mask

If you met a Japanese Samurai warrior wearing this helmet and mask on the battlefield, how would you feel? Maybe a tiny bit scared? Well that is the idea! Copy the expression on the mask and roar like a warrior!

Can you see the little dog on top of the helmet? It's a shisa, or guardian dog, a cross between a lion and a dog. His job is to protect the Samurai from evil spirits. What animal would you choose to protect you?



Go into gallery 38 →

9 This robe was worn by someone in the Emperor's household. Its colour tells us it was maybe worn by a prince or an imperial duke.

Chinese stories are full of dragons, and the dragon in the centre of the coat is chasing the Pearl of Wisdom. **Look carefully – how many other dragons can you find?**



Chinese Dragon Robe



Go into gallery 41 →

8



The Alfred jewel

This rare and precious object is connected to the Anglo Saxon King, Alfred the Great. He is famous for fighting off the Vikings and for educating his people.

The jewel is made of gold, enamel and rock crystal. Around the edge are the words 'Aelfred mec heht gewyrcan'. This is Anglo Saxon for 'Alfred ordered me to be made'. It was discovered in a field in Somerset.

Can you find out what this special jewel was used for?

← Go into gallery 43

7 Paolo Uccello painted this picture in about 1470 in Italy. He was famous for painting pictures of nature, and for making his pictures look real using perspective.

Look closely, everything in this picture comes out from a point in the centre called the vanishing point. There is something else that's intriguing about this picture.

Do you think the people are hunting at night time or during the day?



Hunt in the Forest



Night



Day

Go downstairs into gallery 32, Level 1 →

6 Nandi the bull is the vehicle, or mount, of the Hindu god Shiva. Statues of Nandi are often found sitting outside Shiva's temple, looking in towards the statue of the god. This statue is from Southern India.

Nandi is wearing lots of decorations: bells, chains, ornaments and flowers. **What colours do you think they might be?**



Now imagine the sound of the bells jingling.



Nandi the Bull

← **Go downstairs into gallery 20, Level G**

5



Octopus Pot

The Minoans from Knossos on the Greek island of Crete liked to decorate their pots with sea creatures and plants. Look at the amazing Octopus design.

Before modern artificial dyes were made, murex or sea snails were very important as they were used to create the purple dye known as Tyrian purple. **Can you spot any sea snail shells on this pot?**



Go into gallery 26 →

4 This is the sarcophagus lid, or coffin lid, of Ptahhotep from ancient Egypt. It is carved from a stone called graywacke (pronounced *grey wackey*), which is strange as it looks black. Down the front of Ptahhotep's sarcophagus are inscriptions, or carvings, from the *Book of the Dead*, which was like a guidebook to the afterlife.

Ptahhotep looks like he's smiling. **What do you think he is thinking about?**

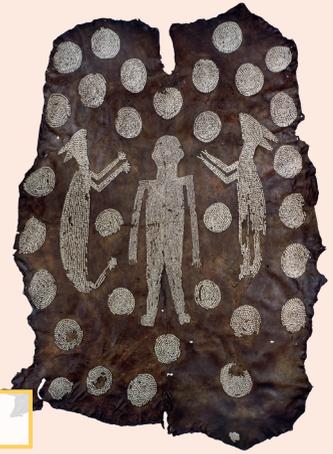


Sarcophagus of Ptahhotep

Go downstairs into gallery 2, Level -1 →

3 We used to think this was a cloak, which is why it's called a mantle (an old fashioned word for clothing) but it could have been a wall-hanging. It belonged to the Chief of the Powhatan tribe of native Americans. His name was also Powhatan. You might not have heard of Powhatan before, but you may have heard of his daughter. Her name was Pocahontas.

This mantle was once displayed without a glass case to protect it. **Why do you think some of the shells are missing?**



Powhatan's Mantle



Guy Fawkes Lantern

*Remember, remember the fifth of November,
Gunpowder, treason and plot.*

This lantern was given to the University by the son of the Justice of the Peace. It was said that Guy Fawkes, one of the Gun Powder Plotters was holding this lantern when he was arrested under the Houses of Parliament in 1605.

This is called a dark lantern, because you could hide the candlelight by closing the lantern window with a screen. **Why do you think this would have been useful for Guy Fawkes?**

1 Your favourite object or painting

Now you have seen some of this museum's treasures – can you find my portrait near by? Now it's your turn, tell me your No.1 object or painting, or send me a picture or photo of it.

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