

Animals have inspired art since the age of the cave paintings. Animals:

- feature in ancient myths and stories
- have been carved in stone for temples
- have been made as models to go in the tombs of the dead
- have been painted as pets or enemies
- feature in designs on plates, cups, bowls, glass, metalwork and fabrics

Recording your thoughts...

- > What words describe your animal?
- > What does this animal make you think of?
- > How was it made / decorated?
- > What stories might your animal be able to tell?

Good galleries to explore:

- Gallery 10: China to AD 800
- Gallery 19: Ancient Near East
- Gallery 22-27: Ancient Egypt & Nubia
- Gallery 20: Aegean World
- Gallery 32: India from AD 600
- Gallery 40: European Ceramics



Earthenware horse, China 700s AD  
Gallery 10: China to AD 800 (EAX.3960)



A dog lying on a ledge, Genoa, 1600s  
Gallery 46: Baroque Art (WA1957.59.2)



The Forest Fire by Piero di Cosimo, 1490s  
Gallery 43: Italian Renaissance (WA1933.2)

Detail from Battle of Animals Tapestry  
Gallery 35: West meets East (WA1901.1)



Camel, China 800s AD  
Gallery 28: Asian Crossroads (EA1956.988)



Nandi the bull, India 700s AD  
Gallery 32: India from AD 600 (EA05.77)



Octopus storage jar, Crete 1450 BC  
Gallery 20: Aegean World (AN1911.608)



Pottery lion, Egypt 2200 BC  
Gallery 22-27 Ancient Egypt & Nubia (AN1912.605)

Further resources

Ashmolean Education:  
[www.ashmolean.org/education/resources](http://www.ashmolean.org/education/resources)

Ashmolean Eastern Art Online:  
[www.jameelcentre.ashmolean.org/](http://www.jameelcentre.ashmolean.org/)

Artefact, artist's resource for secondary teachers:  
[www.museums.ox.ac.uk/artefact/](http://www.museums.ox.ac.uk/artefact/)

# ANIMALS

ALL THESE ANIMALS WERE MADE BETWEEN 3000 BC AND 2000 AD = 5000 YEARS BETWEEN THE HIPPO AND WOODPECKER.

CHINA  
POTTERY HORSE  
EAX. 3960



THIS HORSE IS REALLY POWERFULL.

EGYPT  
POTTERY LION.  
2200 BC  
AN 1896-1908 E189



I THINK THE ARTIST WHO MADE THIS, REALLY LIKED HIPPOS.



MODEL OF A HIPPOPOTAMUS  
PRE-DYNASTIC EGYPT  
3000 BC  
E. 3267

RING BULL  
POT  
1500 BC  
AN 1939.374



IRAN  
POT IN SHAPE  
OF A BULL.  
AN. 1964.347



THESE ANIMAL SHAPES ARE ALL SO SIMPLE.



I LIKE HIS PERSONALITY

GEOFFREY EASTOP  
LARGE JUG-WOODPECKER  
1980  
WA 2011.68

VULTURE HEAD  
EGYPT 700 BC  
AN 1922.371



THIS IS A JAGUAR ATTACKING A WILD BOAR.  
ALSO- PUMA  
TAPIR  
DOGS



BATTLE OF THE ANIMALS  
TAPESTRY - 1723  
WA 1901.1