

7 Monks and Manuscripts

When Christianity arrived in Britain, monks designed beautiful Bibles, using patterns which were around at the time. These patterns from older religions were thought splendid enough to decorate their most precious Christian manuscripts.

Find this manuscript page.



Compare the manuscript page you just found with the brooches nearby. Which animals can you see on both? _____

8 Pattern Practice

Find this scribe's practice page.

The scribe (writer) has been practising patterns for his manuscript, but he clearly got bored and did bit of doodling for fun.

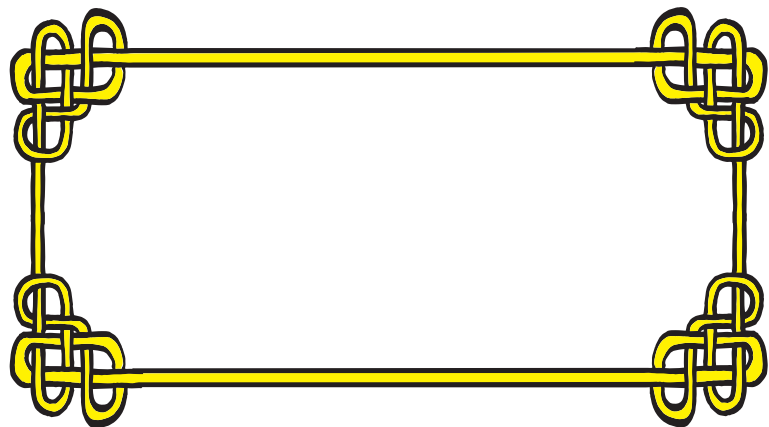


What has he done a doodle of?

A MONSTER DRINKING BEER

A KNIGHT HOLDING A SHIELD

Here is a space for your own doodle



Well done!
You've finished the trail and found out about religious imagery from around the world.



SUITABLE FOR AGES
6+

IMAGINING THE DIVINE

Welcome to this exhibition. You'll be exploring some objects from different religions. They help us understand how people in the past imagined their gods.



1 Mix and Match Gods

Find these Roman stone heads of gods

The Romans liked to mix up their gods. They loved the Greek gods, and gave them Roman names. Then when they conquered Egypt, they were inspired by Egyptian gods. Clues on these heads tell us that they represented more than one god!



Time to play detective. **Draw lines to match the right god (or gods) to the clues.**

BUSHY BEARD
Roman god
Jupiter

HAT
Egyptian god
Serapis

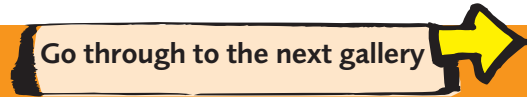
HORNS
Egyptian god
Ammon

2 Christ or Emperor?

Find this mosaic fragment, once part of a floor



The early Christians wanted to make Jesus Christ look like the most powerful and important person of the time – the Roman emperor. Notice how he has no beard, and is wearing a Roman toga, just like an emperor. Turn over to find out about another floor mosaic...



Find this mosaic (on the floor)

This mosaic is from a Jewish Synagogue. The man in the middle is the sun, and around him are the signs of the zodiac.

Walk around the circle and see which signs you recognise.

How do you think a mosaic is made?



3 Shapeshifting Vishnu

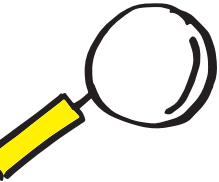
Find this statue



Some Hindu gods can shapeshift into many forms, both as people and as animals. This is Vishnu as a boar, just one of his many forms or 'avatars'.

Which animal form would you like to take?

Find this manuscript cover, showing all the forms of Vishnu.



What other animal forms can you spot?

4 Hand of the Buddha

Find this large hand

This is all that remains of a huge, ancient statue of the Buddha. The right hand of the Buddha is raised in a blessing gesture, which means 'do not fear'.

Close your eyes and try to imagine how big the original statue would have been.

Copy the 'do not fear' gesture with your right hand.



5 The Incredible Cup

Find this cup

This is a copy of the famous Khosro Cup, made using digital scanning technology and 3D printing. The real cup is in a museum in Paris. It is thought to show King Khosro the I.

Can you see King Khosro in the middle of the cup?



Why do you think we have a copy and not the real cup? Tick the answer/s you think are correct:

IT WAS FULL OF SOUP

IT IS TOO FRAGILE TO TRANSPORT

THE MUSEUM WOULD MISS IT TOO MUCH

Move on to the next gallery



6 The Beautiful Quran

The Quran, the holy book of Islam, is written in Arabic. It is not considered right to use pictures of people or animals in the Quran, so writers find ways of making the writing itself beautiful.

Decorate the sentence in the frame below to make it beautiful.



Decorating the Quran is a way of worshipping God

