Memorial Art Gallery

Passport to the Past

Arts of the Ancient World, the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Europe, from the collections of the Memorial Art Gallery
Where in the World…? The Eastern Hemisphere
What do “BCE” and “CE” mean?

BCE (Before the Common Era) and CE (Common Era) refer to the same time periods as the more traditional BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini, which means “The Year of our Lord”).
How do you think these objects were used?
What do they tell us about the cultures that made and used them?
What tools or methods did the artists use to make these objects?
What do these pairs of objects have in common?  
In what ways are they different?  
What do they tell us about ancient Egyptian culture?
China

Can you match each object with the area’s religious beliefs or traditions?

What evidence did you use?

Many new ideas came into China by sea or the Silk Road; can you find examples of outside cultural influences in these objects?
Some of these objects have something important in common – What is it?
How many different ways can you sort these objects?
Can you guess how cultural ideas spread from one area to another?
What do these objects have in common?
How many different ways could they be categorized?
What do they tell us about ancient Greek culture?
Other Mediterranean Cultures

These objects are grouped by culture – what are the two cultures? Where are they located? What other categories could you use to group these objects?
Where in North Africa were these objects created? What tools and skills did the artists use? How do you think the objects were used? Many objects were exported to other places - do these remind you of any other objects you have seen?
How many different materials have been used to make these objects?
What can these objects tell us about how the Romans lived?
How do the objects compare with those we use today?
Medieval Europe

What do these pairs of objects have in common?

How are they different?

What do they tell us about Medieval European culture?
The Islamic World

How have the artists decorated these objects?

How many different countries are these objects from?

What does that say about them? How do you think the objects were used?
The Renaissance in Europe

- **Saint James**, French, late 1400s, Limestone, paint; 94.49
- **Saint Elizabeth**, German, ca. 1500, Wood; 57.7
- **Partial Armor made for the Dukes of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel**, Brunswick Armory, German, ca. 1562, Etched steel, leather; 2006.57
- **Marriage Chest (Minnekastchen)**, German, late 1400s, 2008.2
- **Portrait of a Boy of the Bracciforte Family of Piacenza**, 1540, Girolamo Mazzola Bedoli, Italian (ca. 1505 - ca. 1569); 76.13
- **Conversion of Saint Paul**, Francesco Ubertini, Italian (1494?—1557), 1530–35, Oil on panel, 54.2
- **Portrait of a Caesar**, Circle of Gregorio di Lorenzo, Italian (active 1461—1473), Marble; 65.8
- **Wedding Cutlery Set with Case in the Form of a Fish**, French, ca. 1550, Ivory, steel, leather, wood; 2010.9
- **Adoration of the Magi**, Master of the Holy Blood, Flemish (active early 1500s), 80.43
- **Madonna and Child Enthroned with Angels**, Master of the St. Ursula Legend, Flemish (active 1470-95), before 1483; 48.11
- **Madonna and Child with Saint Elizabeth and Saint James**, Master of the Holy Blood, Flemish (active early 1500s), before 1483; 48.11
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How many ways can these objects be sorted?
How do you think the objects in each group were used?
Look closely at each object—what skills and tools did the artists use?
How do you think each of these objects was used?
Describe some of the detailed decoration you see.
What skills or tools did the artists use?
Sub-Saharan Africa

Bamana Culture, Mali
*Crest Mask: Antelope (Chi Wara)*
Wood, fibers, metal, shells;
Male- 69.107, Female and Baby- 93.14

Makonde Culture, Mozambique
*Crest Mask (Lipiko)*, ca. 1950–60
Wood, human hair, pigments;
2006.71

Yaka Culture, D. R. Congo
*Crest Mask*, Wood, fibers, pigment; 72.54

Yaoure or Baule Culture,
*Côte d'Ivoire Spoon*, Wood; 64.102

Asante Culture, Ghana
*Goldweight: Man w/ Pipe*,
Wood, pigment, beads, cowrie shells, fiber, sacrificial materials; 65.9.1-2

Mende Culture, Sierra Leone
*Helmet Mask (Soweï)*, Wood; 72.52

Western Pende Culture, D.R. Congo
*Ivory Pendant Amulet (Ikhoko)*, 51.114

Fur Culture, Sudan
*Ivory Bracelet*, 67.64

Yoruba Culture, Nigeria
*Twin Figures (Ere Ibeji)*,
Wood, pigment, beads, cowrie shells, fiber, sacrificial materials;

Senufo Culture, Côte d'Ivoire
*Champion-Cultivator Staff*
Wood, fiber, shells; 71.64

What different materials have been used to make these objects?

How are these objects used? How can you tell?

Can you find all of these modern countries on a map?
What materials have been used to make these objects?

What can they tell us about these people and their culture?

Describe the decorations. Can you guess what might have inspired the artists?
Details of Works of Art from the Collection of the Memorial Art Gallery

Sumerian
Cuneiform Tablet with Case, 54.48.17a

Roman
Glass Vessel, 51.136

Abelam Culture, Papua New Guinea
Yam Mask, 74.78

Iranian
Leaf from a Manuscript of Poetry, 28.317

Etruscan, Oinochoe, 51.179

Japanese
Four Tier Imari Ware Container, 81.37

Chinese
A Bearer of Good Wishes; Fragment from a Taoist Wall Painting, 30.26

Abelam Culture, Papua New Guinea
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Raffaello del Garbo, Italian
Madonna and Child with Angel, 47.30

Thai, Head of Buddha, 30.33

French, Saint James, 94.49

Roman; made in Antioch, Syria
Mosaic with the Head of Tethys, 42.2

Chinese
Ceremonial Food Vessel Type Gui, 42.15

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