



DERBY MUSEUMS

ACTIVITY PACK

CREATE.PLAY.
LEARN.DISCOVER.
IMAGINE.MAKE.

derbymuseums.org

Derby Museums
is for the thinker and
maker in all of us.

This edition is full of
activities inspired by the
amazing animals you can
find in our Notice Nature
Feel Joy gallery and
World Collection, and is
designed to engage
your head, heart
and hands.



CREATE: Pattern print animals

Our collections are interesting at just a glance, but when you look really closely you will be able to appreciate just how special these objects are.

Look at these close ups of animal objects from our Nature gallery, as well as our World Cultures gallery. **Do you see the different colours, patterns and textures?**

Have a go at reimagining these textures and patterns.

You could go on a treasure hunt for interesting things to make stamps with: string, bubble wrap, pencil erasers, pen or container lids all work well – all you need to do is dip them in paint and press them onto paper or card to create a pattern.

Why not try making rubbings from textured surfaces like paving or large leaves? Simply lay a piece of paper on top of these surfaces and then 'rub' pens, pencils or crayons across the paper to see your pattern emerge like magic!

Experiment with different materials and techniques! You could build up layers of patterns, or cut the patterns out to make a collage animal or fill in an animal shape like this bird:



LEARN: **Emboss in the style of a neptune dish**

Here is a picture of a 'neptune dish' that is part of our World Collection gallery. This dish is from Nigeria, and is over 100 years old! Its makers have used a 'punch-decorating' technique to create the pattern on the dish. Embossing is a technique that creates a raised image, which is the opposite to the punch-decoration on the dish, but there are similarities in the approach and the effect you can achieve.

You will need:

- A piece of flattened aluminium cut from a can (make sure you ask an adult to help!) or a sheet of tin foil
- A mat, piece of cardboard, or kitchen roll to protect your surfaces
- An embossing tool (this needs to be a drawing material with a rounded tip)

Instructions

1. Lay your aluminium on your protected surface, non-patterned or matt side up.
2. Use your embossing tool to draw your design – make sure you start gently and build up pressure to make sure you don't pierce the surface.
3. Be creative!
Make different marks like dots and lines to play with pattern and create a textured image.

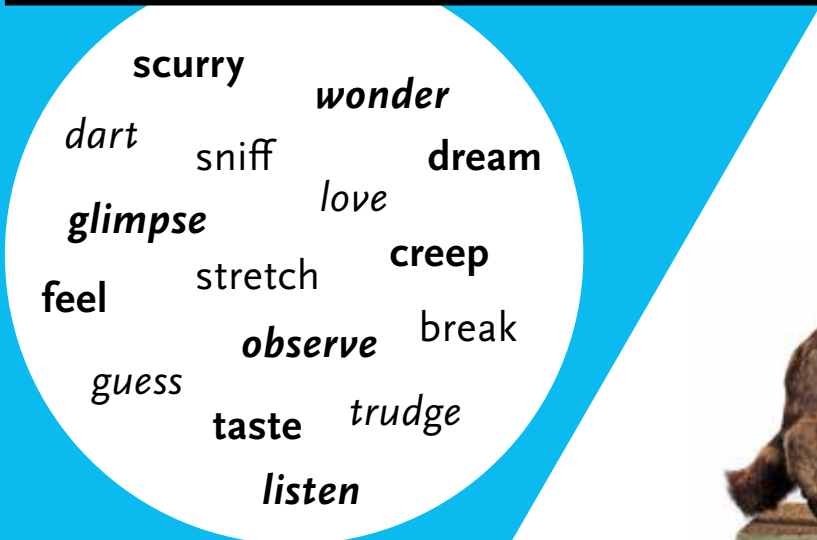
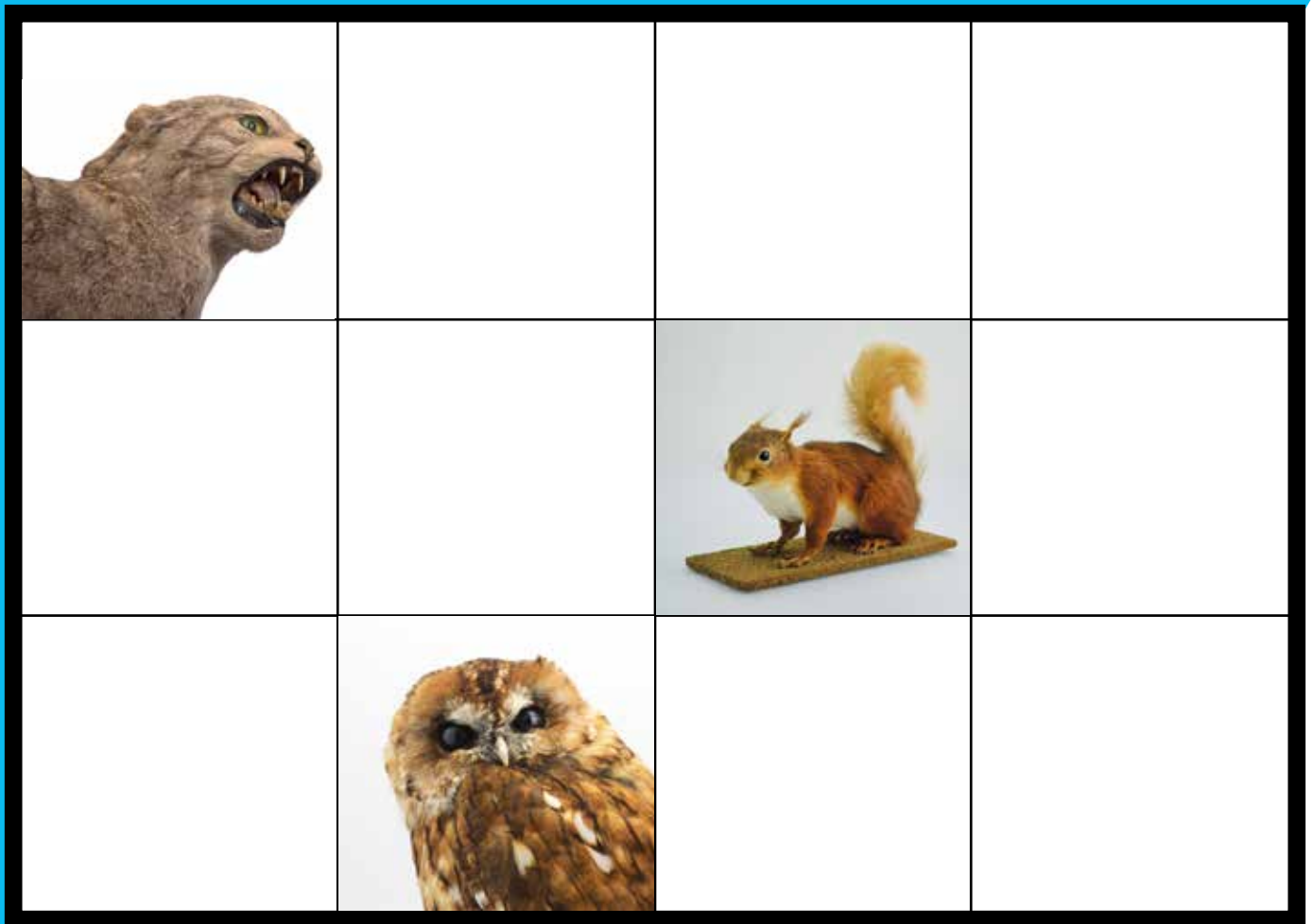


IMAGINE:
Finish the story
of the Scottish
wild cat

“SNAP” a twig crunched under the paws of me, the last Scottish wild cat. That crunch of a twig disturbed a plump rabbit that was happily munching on lush long grass. It had frozen looking like it had seen me, so I instinctively got to a crouch and slowly crept forward. I quickly tried to leap onto it and finish it off but ended tripping and flopping down with a thud. I bellowed a meow in frustration... by Lucy, age 10

What happened next? Can you continue the story?

You can use the characters, storyboard template and word bank below for inspiration.



DISCOVER: How do pond skaters move across water?

Pond skaters, also known as pond skimmers or water striders, are insects that move across water in a very distinctive way, as their name suggests! **Learn how this movement works by conducting this experiment.**

You will need:

- Powdered black pepper
- Bowl with water in it
- Washing up liquid

Instructions:

1. Let the water settle until it is flat.
2. Gently sprinkle a pinch of pepper on the water and leave it to settle again.
3. Now add a drop of washing up liquid – what happens?

Explanation:

The water has a 'skin' on it called surface tension. The parts of the water, known as molecules, are attracted together tightly. When you add the pepper it floats on top because it is so light and can't get through the skin. When you add the washing up liquid this reduces the surface tension and so the pepper moves across the surface.

What else can you find that floats on the water before adding washing up liquid – can you make some paper move without touching it?



MAKE: Junk modelled animals

Looking through this activity pack, you're probably realising that Derby Museums is home to many amazing animal objects. **Use the instructions below to learn how to make your own animal from items you can find around the house.**

You will need:

- Cardboard: kitchen or toilet roll tubes, plain card or card from cereal box will do
- Sellotape, PVA glue, or glue stick
- Scissors
- String
- Paint, felt-tip pens, pencils and/or crayons
- Tissue paper

Instructions:

1. To make our elephant's body, take a toilet roll tube and cut it lengthways along the bottom of the tube.
2. Draw in the four feet of your elephant (two feet on one side and two feet on the other) on the cut end of the tube. Cut these out so your elephant can stand up.
3. Cut some string for the elephant's tail and stick it on with glue or sellotape.
4. To make the elephant's head, take another toilet roll tube and this time, a little less than halfway down it, draw around the tube in pencil.
5. Create a trunk by drawing two vertical lines, about two inches apart, extending out from the circle. Now cut out the circle and trunk – make sure you don't cut the trunk short!
6. Using the off cuts from the face cut out a pair of large ears.
7. Draw in the eyes and attach the ears to the head and the head to the body
8. Finally, colour in, paint or use collage to make your elephant look real.

Can you junk model any other animals? Use the pictures of the animals from our collection for inspiration!



DISCOVER: Guess the animal













Take the highlighted letters from each picture clue to name the animal.
Did you know that you can see all these specimens in our Nature Gallery?

Animal riddles:

1. Even though I have two wings I'm a bird that cannot fly, I can dive to 180m and I sometimes steal rocks. Who am I?

2. My name means fish lizard, but I'm not a fish or a lizard, I used to be known as a sea dragon and I was alive at the same time that dinosaurs were on land. Who am I?

Can you make your own riddle about your favourite animal?

		
1. L ----	2. ---- L ---	3. L ----
		
4. --- L -----	5. ----- L ---	6. L -----
		
7. --- L -----	8. --- L ----	9. ----- L ---
		
10. ----- L ---	11. --- L ----	Answer? -----

Answers:
Guess the animal: Hummingbird
Animal riddle 1: Penguin
Animal riddle 2: Ichthyosaur

RELAX AND SHARE:

The Story of Segun and the Elephant

by Alison Solomon

Once there lived a family in rural Africa whose eldest son, Segun, was ready to leave the family home and find some land to call his home. It was a tradition of his tribe that, on finding fertile land, he would receive the off-spring or babies of his father and mother's most prized cow and bull.

One day Segun went exploring when he stumbled upon a beautiful large green area of land which made him happy. It looked to him that nobody else lived on it so he stood and shouted, "I claim this land as my own from this day forward!" Just then a bull elephant appeared next to him and said, "This is not your land, it belongs to me! It has been in my family for over one hundred years." An argument started between the man and the elephant, but they could not decide who owned the land. Just then a lion walked passed and the elephant said, "Excuse me King, this land, as you know is my ancestral land, but this man has claimed it as his own. Please make the decision for us and we will abide by your answer." After some thought the lions said, "OK! What is the real name of this land?"

Have you seen the miniature figure of an African elephant throwing a man in the World Cultures Gallery? Next time you visit take a look. We do not know the story behind why the elephant threw the man, but with a little imagination the story may have gone a little like this.

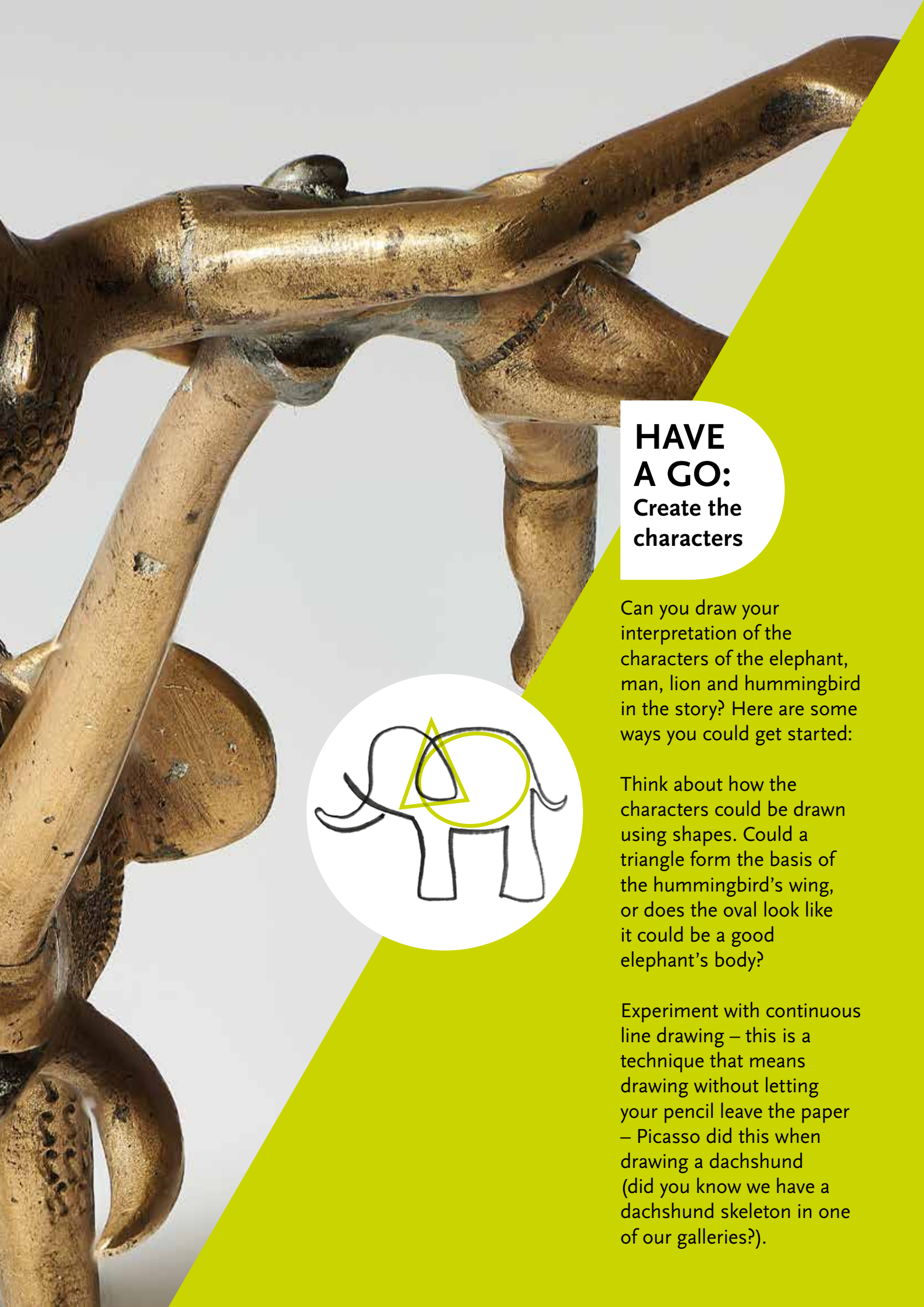
**The answer is found in this riddle;
My first begins Main and also Mane.
My second is in Eat but not in Cat.
My third is the first letter of the precious thing they hunt for.
What is it?"**

Segun and the elephant scratched their heads long and hard. The elephant felt sad that he might lose his land after one hundred years in his family line. Just then, a hummingbird flew to the elephant's ear and whispered, "Elephant remember what your mummy and daddy told you about your tusks ... What letter is the natural material that makes up your tusks?" Elephant thought again and shouted to lion, "The answer is MEI! The answer to the first clue is **M**. The answer to the second clue is **E**. The answer to the final clue is **I** because of Ivory. The answer is **MEI LAND**."

"Yes elephant!" The lion roared. "It's your land elephant now do what you want with the man!" With that, the elephant picked up Segun with his trunk and removed him from his land. As the elephant carried Segun they chatted and laughed about their day and they decided that Segun would find some other land, and they would be friends and not enemies from that day forward.

Why MEI? It's a corruption of the word MY, and is meant to indicate that the land always belonged to the elephants before man inhabited it. The elephant understands this because of the test, and the lion and hummingbird help him to understand it.





HAVE A GO: Create the characters

Can you draw your interpretation of the characters of the elephant, man, lion and hummingbird in the story? Here are some ways you could get started:



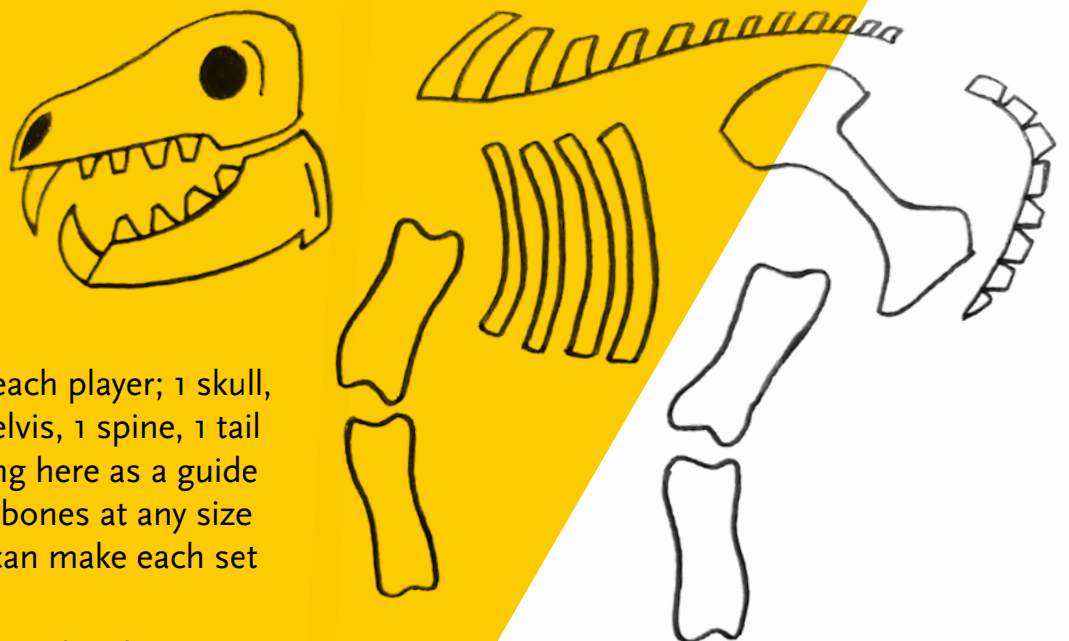
Think about how the characters could be drawn using shapes. Could a triangle form the basis of the hummingbird's wing, or does the oval look like it could be a good elephant's body?

Experiment with continuous line drawing – this is a technique that means drawing without letting your pencil leave the paper – Picasso did this when drawing a dachshund (did you know we have a dachshund skeleton in one of our galleries?).

PLAY:

Build a hippo skeleton

Have you seen the Allenton hippo skeleton in the Nature Gallery? It's about 120,000 years old and was discovered by workmen in 1895 when they were digging a well. Over three days they managed to unearth 127 bones and fragments! When everything was pieced together it formed around 50 bones of an adult hippo.



You will need:

- A set of bones for each player; 1 skull, 4 limbs, 4 ribs, 1 pelvis, 1 spine, 1 tail (use the line drawing here as a guide to create your own bones at any size you want and you can make each set a different colour)
- A die (cut out the template here)

Rules:

To play the game, place all the bones in the middle of the table.

Each player rolls the die.

Look at the number you've rolled and collect the bone corresponding to that number;

6 is a skull

5 is a rib

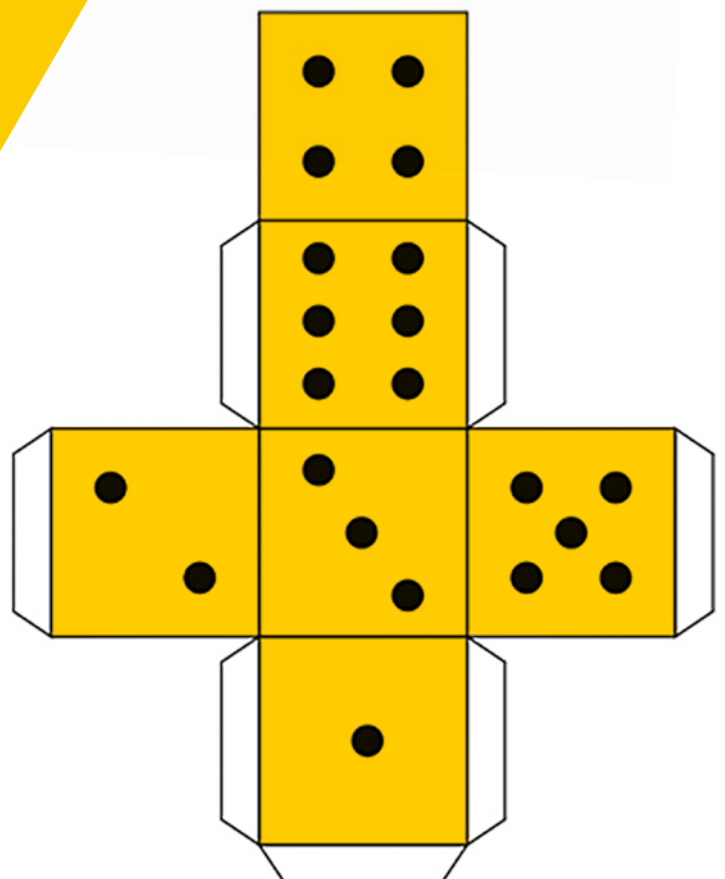
4 is a limb

3 is a spine

2 is a pelvis

1 is a tail

The first player to complete their skeleton is the winner.



PLAY:

Museum object cards

Bring a piece of the World Collection into your home with these object cards. Cut out the squares below to play a game of pairs by turning all of the cards upside down and then trying to remember the matching cards. Or, you could challenge your family and friends to a game of snap!

1. **Adorno, animal head**
Selin culture, Roatán Island, Honduras Bay, Central America, c. 300 - 1000 CE



2. **Wild boar shaped child's rattle**
Cyprus, Europe 3rd - 1st century BCE / 300 - 50 BCE



3. **Wooden crocodile carving**
West Africa, late 19th - early 20th century

- 4, 8 & 9 **Toy animals**
Africa, unprovenanced, late 19th-early 20th century



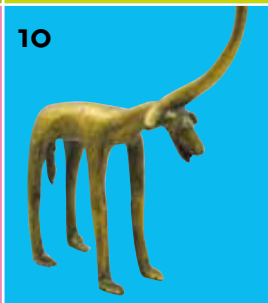
5. **Tiger shoes**
Manchu people, China, Asia. 19th century.

6. **Donkey votive figure**
Cyprus, Europe c. 600 - 475 BCE



7. **Ivory crocodile**
West Africa, c. late 19th - early 20th century

10. **Animal figure**
Possibly an ibex Fon people, Abomey, Republic of Benin, Africa Late 19th - early 20th century



If you enjoyed the activities in this pack,
you can find more at derbymuseumsfromhome.com

info@derbymuseums.org

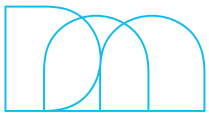
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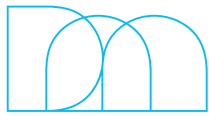


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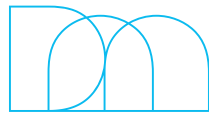
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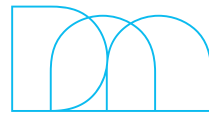
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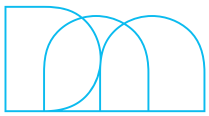
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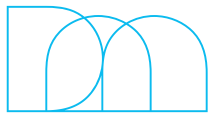
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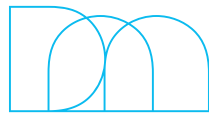
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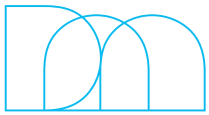
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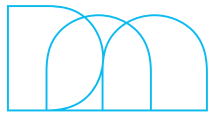
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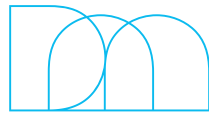
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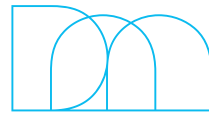
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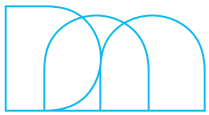
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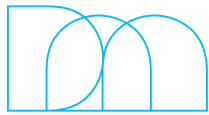
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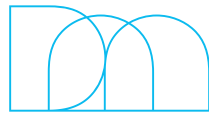
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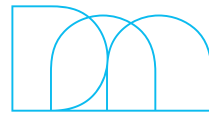
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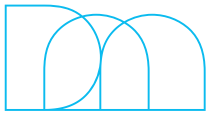
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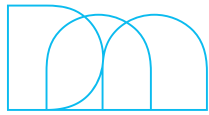
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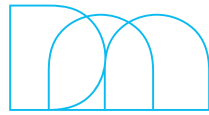
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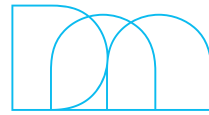
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