

Art A Day

CHALLENGE: What is YOUR Animal Guide

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

We challenge you to an art activity each day of the School Closure! If you decide to complete this challenge, share it with us in the comments and on Instagram @WCMFA and use the hashtag #ARTaDayCHALLENGE

Stuff you'll need: Read through the challenge to decide...the materials you use are up to you!

LOOK at these terracotta (clay) horses that may have been found in a tomb from someone who died in China during a time we call the Northern Wei dynasty.

They are balanced on base and are painted with colorful designs and they are many hundreds of years old (from somewhere between 383-535 CE). The horses were placed in tombs with people that died. Many people believed the horses helped carry and protect people into the afterlife. Horses weren't the only things that were found in ancient Chinese tombs. Some people believed that part of the soul stays with the body after death and many objects were placed in the tomb to comfort the soul.

THINK about why the people who lived during this time believed that a horse would help them in the afterlife. What does this tell you about their culture? What animal or creature would you want to protect your soul? What animal could you imagine to be your animal guide?

Make your animal guide! What kind of animal would you choose to protect you or to comfort you? What animal do you relate to? This can be a made up creature or a real animal. Include details that show the viewer what makes this animal your animal guide.

Writing Extension: Compare and contrast your animal guide to your own personality.



Unknown maker
(Chinese)

Tomb horses, possibly
Northern Wei Dynasty,
ca. 383-535 CE

Painted terracotta

Gift of Mrs. Anna Brugh
Singer, 1949

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