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مركز التعليم  
EDUCATION CENTRE

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**Where do the  
Animals Hide?**  
The Secret Life  
of Animals at  
MIA

This worksheet accompanies the **Animals Tour** at the Museum of Islamic Art. The worksheet offers some activities and talking points for you and your group before and after your visit to MIA.

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### Pre-Visit Preparation – Post-Visit Activities

- The MIA Animals Tour is a journey of discovery through a world of animals and stories from the museum's collection.
- During the visit, you will see a number of MIA's objects on display in the permanent galleries. Before then, you might like to spend some time in the classroom preparing for the trip. The activities here can also be used after your group's visit.

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### Talking Point - What is a museum?

- A museum is a space where precious objects from history are kept so that everyone can look at them and learn about where they come from.
- People working in museums look after the objects, place them on display and help visitors to learn about each one. These people are called 'conservators' and 'curators'.
- Visitors to MIA work together to look after the museum's collection by walking carefully through the galleries and being careful not to touch objects.
- Looking at objects is exciting and fun – we can learn a lot about people from other places and times by looking carefully at each one.

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### Tour Words

Clay – Gold – Ruby – Leopard – Cintamani - Falcon

Find more information about your group's visit to MIA at [mia.org.qa/learning/teachers](http://mia.org.qa/learning/teachers) - information about MIA's collections is online at [www.mia.org.qa/collections](http://www.mia.org.qa/collections)

**Ceramic dish**  
16th century  
Iznik – Turkey  
MIA PO.124



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## 2nd Floor, 'Figure in Art'

### Gallery

- What is this object? This is a ceramic dish. It is made out of clay, painted in beautiful colours, and then cooked in an oven to harden it.
- This dish was made in country called Turkey, in a city called Iznik.
- This dish is round, like a circle, and has a picture of big cat called a leopard.
- In the past, artists in Turkey often painted pictures of leopards like this one.

- Kings in Turkey sometimes saw wild leopards when they were out hunting in the countryside.
- This leopard is on a chain so that he doesn't attack anyone.
- Real leopards are tan coloured with dark brown spots. What colour is the leopard on this dish? It has many spots.

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### Talking Points

- How would it feel to touch a leopard?
- What other big cats live in the wild?
- What other colours are there on the dish?
- What colours would you use to paint your own big cat?
- What animals do you sometimes see when you are outside?

### **Bronze fountainhead**

10th century  
Cordoba – Spain  
MIA MW.7



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### **2nd Floor, Introduction Gallery**

- What is this object? This creature was made to be part of a fountain – this means that, every day, water would flow from its mouth into a pool of water.
- This creature was made in a far away country called Spain.
- Long ago, Muslim rulers created a kingdom called al-Andalus in Spain.
- Many people lived in Al-Andalus and helped to make its cities and palaces beautiful for the rulers, using objects like this one.

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### **Talking Points**

- Long ago kings created beautiful fountains from which water would flow.
- What do you use water for?
- Where do you find water at home?

### **Activity**

Sometimes people call this creature Fatima. Can you make up a story about Fatima and the kings of faraway Spain?

**Ceramic wall tile**  
16th century  
Turkey  
MIA TI.2



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### 2nd Floor, 'Pattern' Gallery

- A tile is a flat piece of clay that is cooked in an oven and then used to decorate a wall or floor – just like the walls in our kitchens and bathrooms at home.
- Look at the patterns on the tile.
- The spots and stripes are the same as the spots of a leopard and the stripes of a tiger.

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### Activity

- The pattern on this tile has a name. It is called 'cintamani'. Slowly say 'cintamani' together: cin-ta-ma-ni... cinta-mani... cintamani.
- What shapes are in this tile? Can you draw this pattern in the air using your finger?
- Ask your friends - if the squiggles were to dance, how would they dance? Try wiggling like the patterns!
- What other animals are there with spots or stripes?

### Jewelled falcon

17th century

India

Gold, enamel, rubies, emeralds,  
diamonds, sapphires, onyx

MIA JE.69



## 3rd Floor, India 16th-18th Century Gallery

• What animal is this? This bird is called a 'falcon'.

• This object was made about 350 years ago. This was a time before television, cars and French-fries were invented.

• What colors can you see on the falcon?

• The falcon is made from different materials. Rubies are red gemstones, and gold is a precious yellow metal. Look how the gemstones sparkle.

• Who might have owned this object? This object belonged to Shah Jahan, a great ruler from India.

• Shah Jahan and the other Mughal kings loved gemstones. They collected so many gemstones that they couldn't count them all.

## Talking Points

• What number can you count up to?

• How many different colours can you count on the falcon?

• Where else are there falcons in Qatar?

• Are all birds the same as falcons?

• What other birds are there?