



ANIMALS IN ART!

Family Guide

This guide is for kids and grown-ups to use together as you explore The Jewish Museum's permanent exhibition, *Culture and Continuity: The Jewish Journey*. Please begin your visit in the first gallery on the 4th floor of the Museum.



Hanukkah Lamp by Johann Adam Boller, Frankfurt, Germany

Look closely at the object. What animals do you see? What are they doing? Imagine these animals coming alive. What sounds would they make? How would they move?

If you were creating a Hanukkah lamp, how would you decorate it? Would you include any animals? If so, which ones would you choose?

Hanukkah lamps are used to celebrate the Jewish festival of lights. They help us remember a time when Jewish soldiers liberated their place of worship and a lamp stayed lit for eight days when there was only enough oil to last one day.



Walk into the next gallery with the large mosaic on the floor...

Replica of a Portion of a Synagogue Mosaic Floor, Beth Alpha Synagogue, Israel

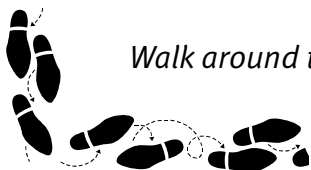


Look closely at the large mosaic on the floor. Because this is a replica or copy of the original mosaic, you can even get down and feel the little stone tiles with your fingers!

What shapes do you see? What colors do you see?

There are many different animals in this mosaic. Count and identify them all by standing on each one! Which picture is your favorite? Why do you like it best?

This mosaic features symbols from Roman culture along with Hebrew inscriptions. A depiction of the Roman sun god Helios in his chariot is surrounded by the twelve signs of the zodiac and personifications of the four seasons.



Walk around the corner until you get to the room with the case of Hanukkah lamps...



Hanukkah Lamps

Look for a Hanukkah lamp with emus and kangaroos. Can you find a Hanukkah lamp that looks like it has curving snakes on it? How many Hanukkah lamps can you find with animals on them? Can you name the animals? Why are some animals easier or more difficult to find than others?

Compare two of your favorite lamps: How are they similar or different? What other shapes and patterns do you notice on the lamps?

Helpful hint for grown-ups: The following Hanukkah lamps all have animals on them!

4, 8, 9 (birds)

13 (birds, snakes, lions, fish, dragonfly, imaginary creatures)

14 (lions)

16 (birds)

17 (deer)

18 (birds, imaginary creatures)

24, 30, 34 (lions)

35 (eagle)

37 (pelicans)

40, 41, 46 (lions)



Walk down the stairs to the third floor...

Torah Ark, Westheim bei Hassfurt, Bavaria



Look at the Torah ark in front of you from the top all the way to the bottom.

Describe the ark for your grown-up. What animals do you see? Are these animals similar or different from animals you may have seen at the zoo? What are these animals doing? Can you describe their body position? Can you put your body in the same shape?

A Torah ark is used in a synagogue to house the scrolls of the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. The Torah is read in front of the congregation on the Sabbath, Mondays, Thursdays, and on holidays.



Walk further down the gallery to the next Torah ark...



Torah Ark from Adath Yeshurun Synagogue by Abraham Shulkin, Sioux City, Iowa

Look closely at the Torah ark. How many different animals can you count? What words would you use to describe what you see?

Here are some other ideas:

carved, curvy, small, skinny, wood, shiny, big, ferocious, soft, angular

Ask your grown-up to close his or her eyes. Pick an animal you want to describe. Without giving away the animal you have secretly chosen, begin describing it. Then ask the adult to open his or her eyes and guess which animal you were describing.

A Russian immigrant to the United States created this Torah ark which incorporates the papercut and woodcarving tradition of his eastern European heritage, Jewish symbols, and a symbol of his new country: the bald eagle.

Congratulations! You have completed the family viewing tour.



Tips for enjoying The Jewish Museum with your child

Follow your child's lead.

What sparks your child's interest? Share in your child's sense of wonder. Explore at your own pace and let your visit be a journey of discovery.

Find a safe place for little hands.

Holding your child's hand or asking him or her to put them behind his or her back (or even on top of his or her head!) can be a fun way of remembering not to touch. Please help us preserve the objects for future generations.

Limit your visit.

You'll enjoy the Museum more if you look at just a few objects. An hour—or even half an hour—may be enough time. Remember, you can always come back—kids age 12 and under are admitted FREE!

Create a work of art at home!

- Find an object with simple forms such as a cup, bowl, table lamp, or chair.
- Draw that object in the space below.
- Thinking about the images you saw at The Jewish Museum for inspiration, decorate the object you have drawn with animal features and patterns. Imagine your cup with bird wings, a snake's head, or a lion's tail!
- Take it a step further and color your creation with crayons or colored pencils. Have fun!