



*Hi, I'm Waltee, your guide  
to family fun at  
The Walters Art Museum.*

## GETTING STARTED

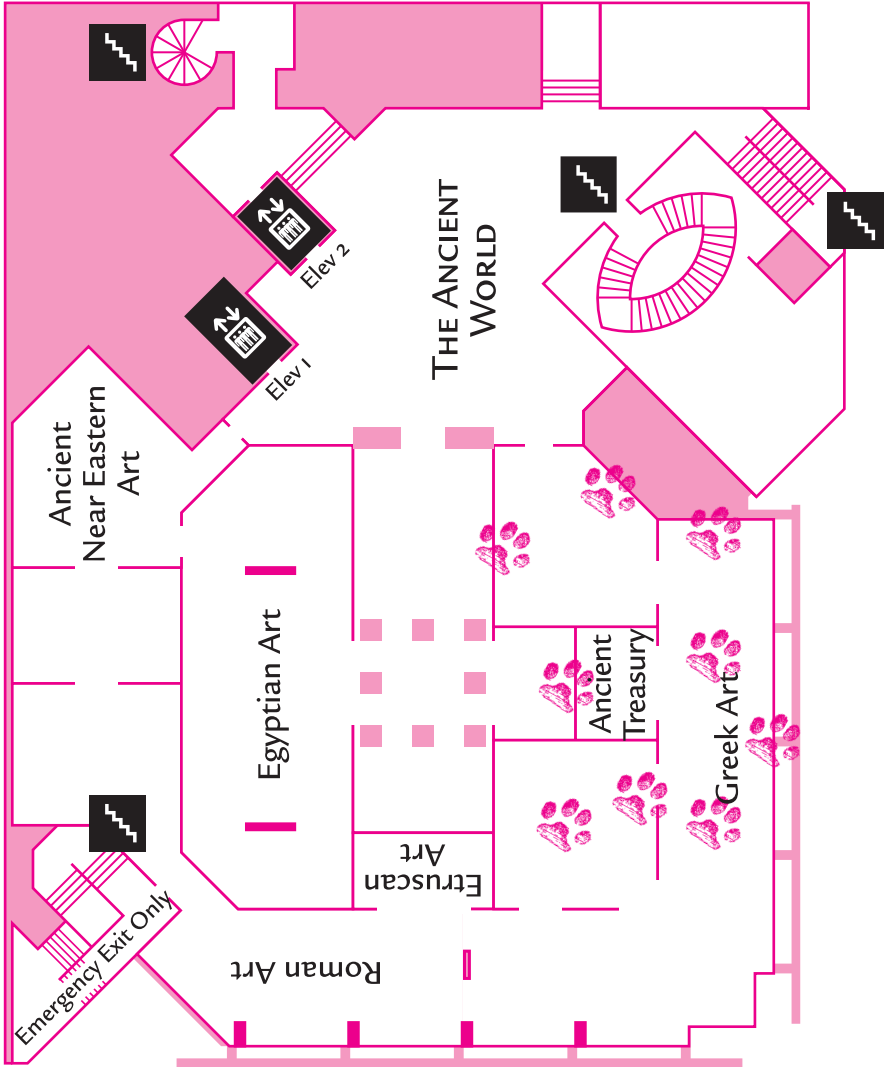
- LOOK WITH YOUR EYES,  
NOT WITH YOUR HANDS.  
The oils from our hands can damage the artworks.
- FIND THE ARTWORK  
PICTURED ON THESE CARDS.  
Start wherever you like. Use the maps on the back  
to locate the artwork in the galleries. Turn the cards  
over for fun facts, information, and activities.
- YOU WON'T GET LOST IF YOU  
FOLLOW MY PAW PRINTS  
ON THE MAP! 

The Family Guide is generously sponsored by the Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation.

Mascot illustrations by Brian Ralph | Design by Principle Inc. (2006)

# LEVEL 2

## CENTRE STREET BUILDING



GO TO THE CENTRE ST. BUILDING,  
LEVEL 2, GREEK ART



## AMPHORA

An amphora is a two-handled Greek vase, generally with a round belly, narrow neck, and a large mouth. They were usually used to transport or store wine or oil. Much of what we know about Greek culture and life comes from the pictures that were painted on them.

*Black-Figure Panathenaic Amphora, 500-485 B.C.*

# AMPHORA



## LOOK

This vessel is called an **amphora** (*am-FOR-ə*). It was used as a prize for an athletic competition called the **Panathenaic** (*pan-ā-the-NAY-ik*) Games, which were held in Athens. The ancient artist decorated this amphora with an image of the goddess of wisdom and courage, **Athena** (*A-THEÉ-na*). Athena was also known as the protector of Athens, the city in Greece where games were held in her honor. Athena is always represented wearing armor and a helmet.

## IMAGINE



Imagine that you have won a race or game at school. How does winning make you feel? What kind of prize might you receive? What would you do with your prize? Where would you put it? If you could design your own prize, what would it look like?



## DISCOVER

This amphora was created and decorated for the winner of an ancient Greek discus competition. A discus is an object that looks like a plate and is thrown as far as possible. The athlete that threw it further than anyone else was the winner. As a prize, the winner would receive many amphorae, all probably filled with precious olive oil!

## → COLLECTION CONNECTION ←

People have been making vessels for over 10,000 years. Over time, artists started to create much more decorative vessels for a variety of purposes and out of a variety of materials. Look for the medieval *Rubens Vase*, and the 19th-century *Tiffany Vase* to see how the intricacy, beauty, and function of vessels have changed over time.

GO TO THE CENTRE ST. BUILDING,  
LEVEL 2, GREEK ART



## CARYATID MIRROR

Look closely, but you won't find any glass. This mirror is made of a metal called bronze, which has turned green over time. Glass mirrors had not been invented yet, so ancient Greeks polished the bronze disc so that people could see their reflection.

*Caryatid Mirror with Aphrodite, ca. 460 B.C.*

## ❖ CARYATID MIRROR ❖



### LOOK

This is an ancient mirror, with a **caryatid** (KĀR-ē-ā-tid) (*a female figure serving as a support and taking the place of a column*) handle. The handle may represent **Aphrodite** (af-roh-DĪE-tee), the Greek goddess of love and beauty. Doves hover nearby, as do figures of **Eros** (ēr-ōs), the god of Love. Sitting atop the mirror is a mythical creature called a siren, which was meant to protect the mirror's owner.

### IMAGINE



You have found a “magic mirror” that takes you back in time to ancient Greece. What do you see in the mirror? Are you a soldier, a lady, an artist, or a sports competitor? What do you look like? How are you dressed? How is your mirror decorated?



### DISCOVER

The siren you see on top of the mirror is a hybrid creature—half human, half animal. It has the body of a bird and the head of a woman. During mythological times, sirens inhabited an island surrounded by dangerous rocks. They sang so enchantingly that all sailors who heard them were drawn near and became shipwrecked.

## ➔ COLLECTION CONNECTION ➔

In our medieval collection look for the mirror in the Lady's Chamber.

It is hanging on the wall. Producing a mirror at any time in history was a complicated and expensive process. Only the rich and powerful could afford them. Compare this mirror with the ancient Greek mirror. Which one would you rather use? Why?

GO TO THE CENTRE ST. BUILDING,  
LEVEL 2, GREEK ART



## BLACK-FIGURE PLATE

“Black figure” refers to a style of Greek pottery in which only the figures or ornamentation on the clay are painted black. The background remains the natural red-orange color. Details are then scratched into the black paint, revealing the underlying natural color of the clay.

*Black-Figure Plate, ca. 600 B.C. by the Gorgon Painter*

## BLACK-FIGURE PLATE



### LOOK

Over 2600 years old, this object is called a black-figure plate because the people are painted in black against an orange background. It was probably not used to hold food, but used as a decorative piece. Broken when we received it, it has been put back together by **conservators** (*people who repair or improve the objects*).

### IMAGINE



Pretend you are an **archaeologist** (är-KE-'äl-a-jist) (*people who study objects from the past*). You dig a hole and hit something hard. Looking down you can see broken pieces of pottery. What colors are they? You find all the pieces and put them back together. What have you found? Describe what the object looks like. What will you do with this object?



### DISCOVER

The image in the center of this plate is **Medusa**, (me-DOO-za) who was a fierce female monster called a Gorgon. Medusa was once a beautiful maiden. Myths tell us that she offended Athena (A-THEÉ-na), the goddess of wisdom, and was stripped of all her beauty. She became a monster with snakes for hair! Be careful—legend has it that Medusa has the power to turn anyone who gazes upon her to stone!

### → COLLECTION CONNECTION ←

Beautiful plates used to decorate homes as well as hold food are plentiful in many of the Walters' collections. Look for them in the Islamic galleries, as well as on the loggia (lō-JA) where you can find pieces from the Renaissance collection.

GO TO THE CENTRE ST. BUILDING,  
LEVEL 2, GREEK ART



## BRONZE HELMET

The Greeks usually protected only their heads, torsos, and lower legs with bronze armor. Ancient painted vases show us that many warriors had their helmets adorned with large horsehair crests, and their round shields were richly painted.

*Corinthian Type Helmet, 7th-6th century B.C.*

# BRONZE HELMET



## LOOK

Helmets like these were worn into battle and sometimes buried within a warrior's tombs. Notice the delicate decoration bordering the outline of this helmet. This type of helmet was named after the city of Corinth in which it was probably first developed. It is close-fitting and shaped to protect the skull with small openings for the eyes, nostrils, and mouth.

## IMAGINE



You have unearthed a helmet. How would it feel when you put it on? Today many people are required to wear helmets, such as construction workers. What other kinds of jobs or activities can you think of that require people to wear helmets? If you could design your own helmet, what would it look like? What kind of designs or symbols would you use to decorate your helmet? Why?



## DISCOVER

This helmet was custom made for the soldier it was meant to protect. That means it was designed and made for an individual soldier. It was created from one single piece of bronze, a type of metal which is a mixture of tin and copper. The metal made the helmet so strong that it would not crack when struck by the enemy.

## → COLLECTION CONNECTION ←

Helmets are among the most ancient forms of protection in battle.

Compare the helmets you see in the Greek collection to the helmets you can find from Italy, Turkey, and Japan in our Hall of Arms and Armor in the Chamber of Wonders.

GO TO THE CENTRE ST. BUILDING,  
LEVEL 2, ANCIENT TREASURY



## JEWELRY

Many of the amazing pieces of jewelry in this case came from graves in a city called Olbia, in present day Ukraine.

*Bracelet from Olbia, 1st-century B.C. reworking of elements of the late 2nd century B.C.*

# JEWELRY



## LOOK

This large, bold bracelet, probably made for a man, stands out in the case because of its beautifully colored stones and impressive amount of gold. Notice how smooth the stones look in the bracelet. Called “**cabochon**” (KĀB-ə-shŏn), the stones are polished but not cut. Craftsmen didn’t learn how to cut gemstones until 2,000 years after this bracelet was made!

## IMAGINE



If you could design a piece of jewelry for yourself, what would it look like? Would it be a necklace, bracelet, or something else? From what materials would it be made? What would it say about you?



## DISCOVER

This bracelet was found in the tomb of a very wealthy man. Our curators don’t know if it was ever worn, but we do know it was placed in his tomb to symbolize wealth and power.

## → COLLECTION CONNECTION ←

Men and women have worn jewelry throughout time for many different reasons. Sometimes they wore jewelry for religious purposes, and sometimes jewelry was worn as a **symbol** (*something that has a special meaning*). Check out the beautiful jewelry worn by both men and women in our medieval migration art collection and in the 19th-century treasury.

GO TO THE CENTRE ST. BUILDING,  
LEVEL 2, GREEK ART



## BRONZE NIKE FIGURINE

Greek legend says that **Zeus**, (*zōōs*) the ruler of all the Greek gods, sent Nike to earth to crown winners of battles and athletic games. She was also thought to bring good luck to the people of ancient Greece.

*Nike*, Before 500 B.C.

## ❖ BRONZE NIKE FIGURINE ❖



### LOOK

This tiny sculpture is a figure of the Greek goddess, **Nike** (Ni-kēy), known as the goddess of Victory. In Greek myths, she was capable of running and flying at great speeds. She is shown with a billowing robe and wings. Sometimes she carries a wreath as a sign of victory. This object was probably a decorative element attached to a vessel used as an offering to one of the gods. Nike's feathery wings are outstretched, and she looks like she is running.

### IMAGINE



If you had wings, what would they look like? Where could you go? What are some other characters, human or animal, that have wings? How would you be similar or different from them?



### DISCOVER

Have you ever noticed the swoosh symbol on a pair of Nike sneakers? This symbol represents one of Nike's wings. Today athletes wear Nike shoes with this symbol, hoping she will help them win a game or be victorious in sports. Even though Nike was a mythological Greek goddess, she is still thought to bring good luck and victory to athletes.

## ➔ COLLECTION CONNECTION ➔

Illustrations of winged beings have been used by many cultures throughout time. They have been found in cave paintings, ancient books, and architecture. See how many winged beings you can find throughout the museum. Look closely, because they like to hide—even on the ceiling!

GO TO THE CENTRE ST. BUILDING,  
LEVEL 2, GREEK ART



## SEATED MUSE

As conquering Romans became wealthier and their territory expanded, their desire and market for famous Greek art grew. Famous Greek originals were not plentiful, so Romans settled for copies such as this statue to decorate their temples, homes, and public spaces.

*Seated Muse, probably Urania, early 3rd century B.C.*

## SEATED MUSE



## LOOK

Walters' curators believe that this statue is a Roman copy of the Greek muse **Urania** (yoo-RĀ-nē-a), the mythological goddess of astronomy and astrology. Said to inspire those who study the stars and the solar system, she originally may have been holding a globe in her left hand.

## IMAGINE



You have designed a personal muse that will help inspire you to create something special or give you a special talent. What type of activity would your muse help you with? What would she look like? What would she wear? Where would you keep her? What would you name her?



## DISCOVER

Nine Muses were worshiped widely in the ancient Greek world. Today, the influence of the Muses is still present. Their names are still used in music, art, and literature. Curators believe this particular Muse was originally placed in a garden, bath, or public fountain area. What do you think she is “musing” over?

➔ **COLLECTION CONNECTION** ➔

Greek sculpture was admired in Roman times and by later artists. It is referred to as “classical art,” and represents the perfection and beauty of an ideal form. During the 18th and 19th centuries, artists were interested in bringing back the standards of ancient art. This “new-classicism” or “neo-classicism” can be seen today in painting and sculptures housed in our 19th-century galleries. Look for figures that look like they stepped out of the ancient world!

GO TO THE CENTRE ST. BUILDING,  
LEVEL 2, GREEK ART



## IVORY SNAKE GODDESS OR PRIESTESS

Purchased by Henry Walters in the 1920s as a *Minoan Snake Goddess* and found after his death with the broken pieces bundled together in his desk drawer, statues like this are regarded as an important symbol of Minoan religion, art, and society.

*Ivory Snake Goddess or Priestess, 16th century B.C.*

❖ IVORY SNAKE GODDESS ❖  
OR PRIESTESS



## LOOK

This statuette carved from ivory was decorated with gold over 3,000 years ago. **Curators** (*people who study the art*) are still not sure if she represents a goddess or a priestess, but they do agree that she was probably carved from an elephant tusk and came from Crete. The ivory is so worn you can no longer see her carved dress, but look for the decorative patterns on her dress in gold. Originally, snakes probably would have been held in both of her outstretched hands.

## IMAGINE

You are helping to clean out the attic of an old house. You find an object that looks very old and unusual. Describe what it looks like. How would you find out more about it? What do you think it was used for? What will you do with the object now that you found it and have discovered its purpose? With whom will you share your discovery?



## DISCOVER

Snake goddess figurines in other museums have been found to be forgeries! Conservators and curators continue to study this figure in the hopes that one day she will reveal from what time period she really came.

## ➔ COLLECTION CONNECTION ➔

Artists throughout history have often used ivory to create beautiful art objects for a variety of different purposes. Our medieval galleries showcase many ivory statues, chess pieces, and hunting horns. Which one is your favorite?

GO TO THE CENTRE ST. BUILDING,  
LEVEL 2, GREEK ART



## TERRA COTTA FIGURINES

Used as decorative pieces, these figurines are made from terra cotta, a baked clay that is brownish-orange in color. First, the bodies were formed in a mold, then baked at a very high temperature in order to make them hard. Finally they were painted.

*Maidens Playing "Knucklebones," late 4th or early 3rd century B.C.*

❖ TERRA COTTA FIGURINES ❖



## LOOK

These two small maidens are playing a popular game among ancient Greek girls and women called Knucklebones. To play, each person tosses a playing piece in the air and tries to catch it on the backs of their hands. The maidens are both well dressed and have sweet smiles. Their twisted strands of hair pulled to the back of their heads is called the “melon” hairstyle.

## IMAGINE



Think about a day without televisions, computers, video games, or books. What would you do with your spare time? What types of games do you play with your friends? Have you ever created your own game? How was it played? Where was it played?



## DISCOVER

The game pieces in Knucklebones were actually small joint bones from goats and sheep. We don't know for sure, but it may be possible that our modern day game of jacks and/or dice developed from the ancient game of Knucklebones.

## ➔ COLLECTION CONNECTION ➔

People have played all sorts of games since the beginning of time for a variety of reasons. Look for the ivory chess pieces in the medieval collection and the board games played by the ancient Egyptians. If you are here on a Saturday or Sunday, borrow a set of Knucklebones from the ArtCart and experience the game for yourself!