

Title of Tour: *Animals: Friend or Foe?*

Brief Tour Planning Worksheet for Group Tour

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INTRODUCTION: Provide a warm welcome to visitors, introduce yourself, give a general introduction to the museum, and discuss museum rules. Then clearly state the theme and goals of the tour and give a short preview of what will be learned/discussed.

Welcome to Mia! You are in for an exciting tour today as we will be on the **Animals-Friend or Foe Tour** of the Ancient Americas and African galleries. We will discuss the attitudes and beliefs toward animals in the cultures that produced these artworks. As you view these beautiful artworks, think about how animals-sometimes symbolically-could be spiritual guides, signs of strength, objects of worship, and part of everyday life. Are some seen as comfort while others are to be feared? Please share your thoughts and questions about these pieces. Remember to stay a foot away from the objects because there are alarms that could go off. We will begin here in the Ancient Americas Gallery.

ORGANIZATION: (Order your 6-8 objects into a logical tour route, both spatially and thematically. Keep in mind the overall theme and think about connections between objects that will facilitate transitions.)

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|------------------------------|----------|----------|
| 1. Underwater Panther Vessel | 2004.33 | Josie |
| 2. Dog, Colima | 99.57.3 | Mary Ann |
| 3. Monkey Vase | 2000.195 | Kathryn |
| 4. Jaguar Effigy Vessel | 46.3.6 | Debbie |
| 5. Equestrian Figure | 83.168 | Janelle |
| 6. Funerary Papyrus | 16.675 | Jena |
| 7. Benin Tusk | 56.33 | Richard |
| 8. _____ | | |

Alternate #1 _____

Alternate #2 _____

Transitions: (1-2 sentences that make a smooth transition between one object and the next, allowing your audience to make connections and follow the tour more easily.)

Transition between 1 and 2:

The underwater panther was an imagined, composite animal that was feared by the Mississippian cultures. Now let's travel to another culture where a real animal served an actual and symbolic importance.

Transition between 2 and 3:

We've seen how this domesticated animal was a big part of everyday life and the afterlife for the Colima, so next we will discover whether a wild animal was a help or a hindrance to the ancient Maya.

Transition between 3 and 4:

So these wild monkeys turned out to be friends to the Maya, helping them process the cacao seeds. We'll now leave these simians behind and return to the felines, seeing another powerful jungle animal in Central America--but will it be a friend or a foe?

Transition between 4 and 5:

We've seen four ancient American objects depicting a variety of animals valued for their symbolic powers or practical uses. Next, we'll move to Africa, exploring whether animals were considered friend or foe there, first looking at an object that depicts a close relationship between a powerful man and his transport.

Transition between 5 and 6:

We've learned through this sculpture how horses helped convey the power of leadership in the Malian Empire; now we are going to look at an object that has a menagerie of animals related to the power and prestige of kings and Gods.

Transition between 6 and 7:

As we've discovered, ancient Egyptians believed certain animals represented divine powers, even assisting them in the afterlife. Now we are going to West Africa to examine another funerary object—but this time, the object was originally part of a real and powerful animal!

Transition between 7 and 8:

NA

CONCLUSION: Use your conclusion to summarize the key points of your tour/theme and recall a few of the objects seen. Also give your audience ideas for future learning, identify any new skills the group may have learned on the tour that can be applied in other learning situations/museum experiences, and encourage them to return for further exploration.

You've just explored animal art works from the ancient Americas and Africa. The cultures that created them represented them in varying ways, with differing materials. Sometimes they were represented literally, and other times symbolically; sometimes friendly and sometimes fearsome. We hope that as you look at art works of animals in the future that you will stop and consider why they were represented that way, and how they served the cultures that created them. We also hope that you return to Mia again soon. Remember it's FREE, bring a friend, and Thank You for coming!