

Museum explorers Celebration

The Open Futures family trails are funded by



Welcome

This trail guides you on a fascinating journey of exploration and discovery around the Museum. On the way you'll track down some amazing treasures and experience tales of human history from around the world. You'll also need to search, look, pose and draw.

Whichever way you go, and whatever you discover, enjoy yourself! If you ever feel lost, just ask a member of staff for help.

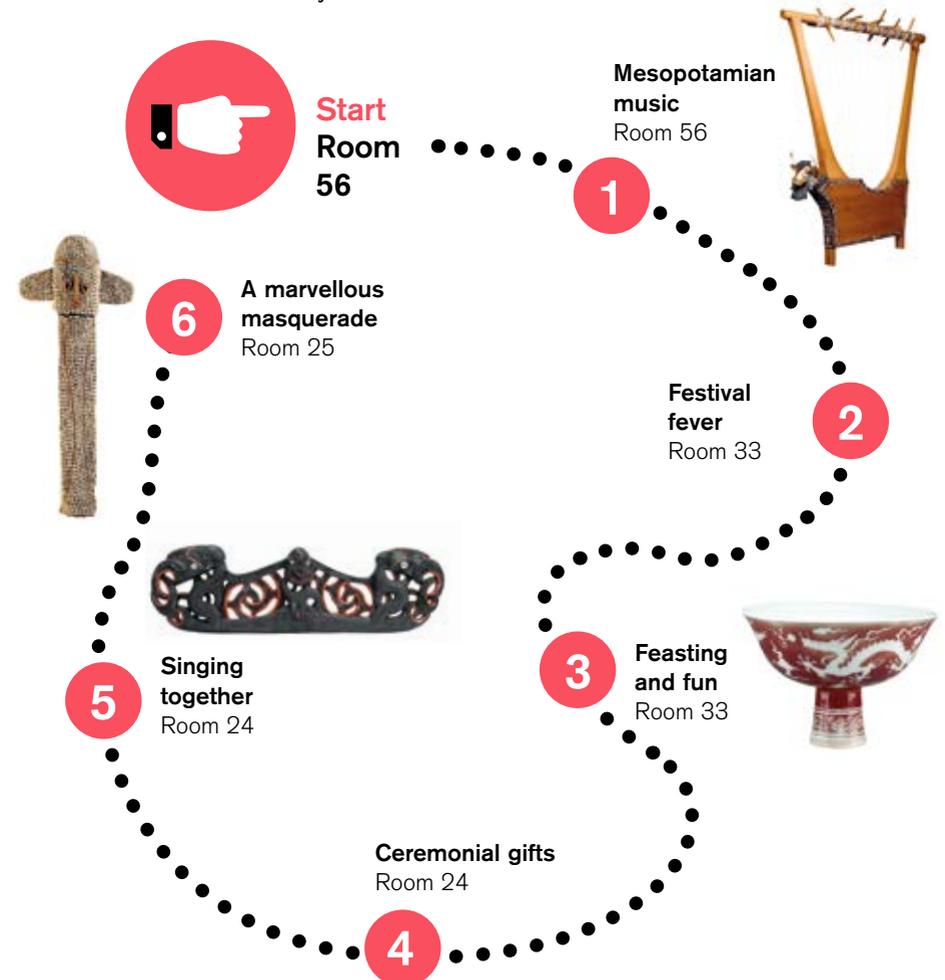
Useful information for families

- You can pick up a map in the Great Court to help you get around the Museum.
- You can leave fold-up pushchairs in the cloakroom free of charge.
- Accessible toilets and baby changing facilities are available. You can breastfeed and bottle feed anywhere on the Museum's grounds but if you would like more privacy, the Museum has two feeding rooms.
- You can find child-friendly food at the cafés. High chairs are available.
- You can use the Ford Centre for Young Visitors to picnic with your family at weekends and during school holidays.

Discover celebration

Take a trip around the world to discover how people have celebrated in different cultures. You'll explore what people wore, ate and did at parties in the past.

You'll need the quick-thinking brain of a party-planner to track down everything you need.



1

Mesopotamian music

Go to Room 56 on Level 3 and find Case 20.



Mesopotamia was a land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Today, most of Mesopotamia is in Iraq.

Music played an important part in Mesopotamian religious ceremonies and banquets. One popular musical instrument was the lyre, a stringed instrument similar to a harp. The Mesopotamians also played cymbals, rattles, bells and drums.



Find the lyres in Case 20. These instruments were used to accompany singing or the chanting of poetry.

Imagine what sounds they might make. Would they make any of these?

■ ping

■ pong

■ clang

■ beep

■ clash

■ bam

■ twang

■ ring

■ boom

2

Festival fever

Go down the North stairs to Room 33.

Festivals and ceremonies in India are colourful and lively. The stone statues in this room come from a temple. Long ago worshippers marked them with coloured powders and made offerings of bright flowers. Imagine what these statues would have looked like decorated with colours.

The sculpture shows Shiva and Parvati being honoured with the gift of music. Shiva (on the left) is an important god in Hinduism. Parvati is his wife.



Find the large black sculpture at the end and fill in the missing words.

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| ■ flute | ■ drum | ■ trumpet |
| ■ cymbals | ■ garland | ■ conch shell |

- 1 A figure with the body of a horse playing a _____
- 2 A man playing a _____
- 3 A woman hitting a _____
- 4 A woman clashing _____
- 5 A man carrying a _____
- 6 A woman playing a _____



Look out for Shiva and Parvati's son Ganesha, the elephant-headed god.



3

Feasting and fun

Turn around, go past the entrance to the room and find Case 40.

Celebrations usually involve plenty of food and drink. These may be served in beautiful vessels to match the importance of the occasion.

These colourful ceramics were used for different rituals. The colours represent important things in nature, such as the moon, sun, heaven and earth.



Decorate your own Chinese-inspired tea cup for a celebration.

Don't forget to think about what type of party it will be used for.



4

Ceremonial gifts

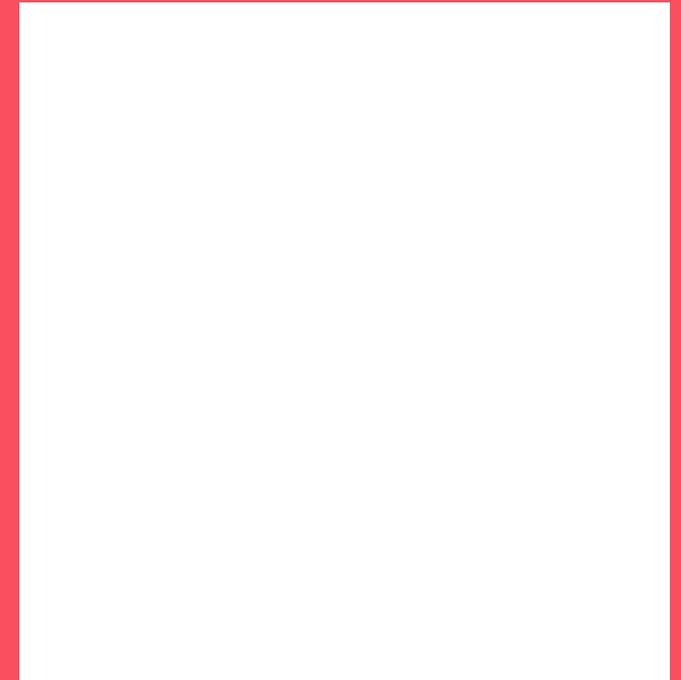
Dance down the North stairs to Room 24. Turn left into Room 26 and find the pipe tomahawk.

Pipe tomahawks combine symbols of peace (a pipe) and war (an axe) in one object. They were highly valued and were given as gifts in treaty negotiations. This example is decorated with feathers, fur and wool. It would have been used during ceremonies.



What object would you give to someone as a gift to promote peace?

Draw a picture of it:



5

Singing together

Return to Room 24. Find the 'Sustaining each other' display on the far left.

Celebrations in New Zealand are held on the Marae, a carved building and grounds that belong to a particular tribe. To start a special event in the Marae a member of the community begins a welcome chant that invites visitors to the celebration.



Read the chant on the panel in the case.



Create your own chant to sing for a celebration. Get your group to sing or dance it with you.

6

A marvellous masquerade

Go downstairs to Room 25. Turn right and find the masks in Case 3.

All around the world people wear masks at celebrations, rituals and festivals. These masks come from different African cultures. They are worn to help crops grow, to celebrate children growing up and to frighten away evil spirits.

Find this mask.



Look at how long it is.

What animal do you **think** it represents?

What other creatures can you **see** in this case?





You've completed the **Celebration** trail!

What a party you've had. You've journeyed to Mesopotamia, India, China and Africa and explored how people celebrate around the world. **Of all the things you discovered, what was your favourite?**

As a reward for completing the trail, here's a special object to help you celebrate!



Tibetan trumpet,
Room 33



You can find out even more about celebrations in other parts of the Museum:

- Visit a house used for a tea ceremony in Room 92.
- Check out a headdress worn for a pow-wow performance in Room 26.



Other things you could do when you get home:

- **Create a memory box**
Take pictures and record videos next time you go to a party.
- **Host a party**
Eat, dress and celebrate like some of the people you discovered on this trail.
- **Cook a celebratory meal**
Don't forget to share it with your friends or family.

**See you back at the
British Museum soon!**

