



Wild of the Americas !



In the stories and art of the First Nations of the Americas, animals play the lead role. Wondering which ones you can find in the museum galleries? Take your Bingo sheet and hit the road! Every time you spot one, tick the right box. Once you have found all the animals in one row, you have won! Your row can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

Ready?

The adventure isn't over yet! Draw the animal you liked the most - or the one that surprised you.

Want to know more?

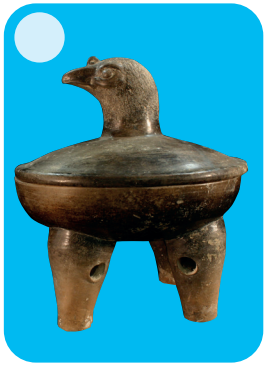
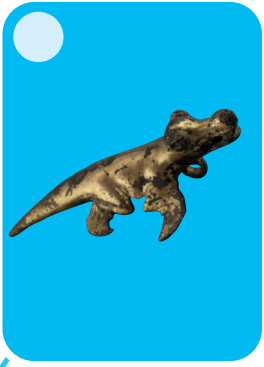
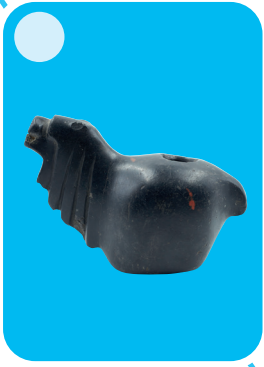
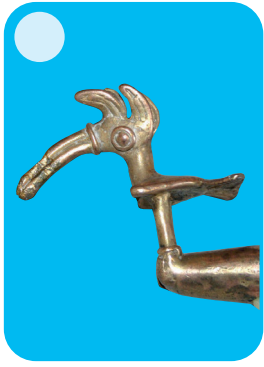
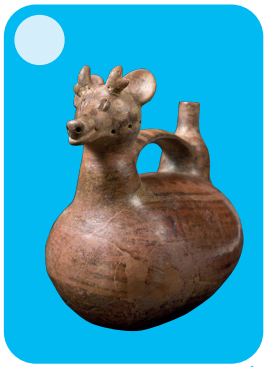
People in Central and South America attach great importance to the animals around them. Some are hunted for food, while others are taken for their fur, feathers, or teeth to make clothes, jewellery and objects.

As in Europe, people keep animals at home. The **dog**, for instance, is a loyal helper in Mexico. It guards the house, goes out hunting with you and walks you to work (and was sometimes eaten!). People used to believe that dogs could bring the souls of the deceased to the afterlife. That is why we sometimes find images of dogs in graves.

In Peru, the **llama** is super important: you can eat it, shave its wool to make clothes, use it as a pack animal AND use its dung as fertiliser or fuel!

People in the Americas believe that animals are not only useful, but also have special powers. They are connected to gods and are used as sacrifices in ceremonies. Animals of the night, such as the **owl** or the **bat**, belong to the dark realm of the dead. **Frogs**, which live in water, belong to the world of the living and symbolise fertility: people say that their croaking calls for rain, which will make the plants grow. Large birds like the **condor** or the **royal eagle** are seen as messengers of the gods and the sun. Indeed, they fly so high that they almost reach the higher realms.

A number of animals symbolise strength and power. For instance, felines such as the jaguar are admired for being strong and brave and birds for their beautiful feathers. To emphasise their own power, Mayan and Aztec kings and nobles used to wear clothes and jewellery made of **jaguar** fur decorated with teeth and claws. Their headgear was decorated with colourful feathers of **macaws** and **hummingbirds**. Very special were the long green tail feathers of the **quetzal** because the colour green symbolised plant growth and life.





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