

Museum explorers colour and shape



Families
Ages 3+

The Hamlyn family trails are supported by

HT THE HELEN HAMLYN TRUST

Welcome

This trail guides you on a journey of exploration and discovery around the Museum. On the way you'll track down some amazing treasures and learn tales of human history. 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

- 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, please use the feeding room in the Ford Centre for Young Visitors in The Clore Centre for Education on the Lower floor, Level -1, or one of our baby changing spaces. For details, ask at the Families Desk or Information Desk in the Great Court, or pick up a map of the whole Museum.
- You can leave fold-up pushchairs in the cloakroom free of charge.
- 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.

Museum explorers

colour and shape



Many cultures throughout history have kept their food and water in clay pots of interesting **colours and shapes**. How do you store your favourite snacks?

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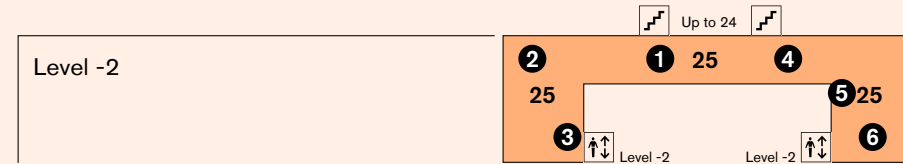
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This map shows the locations of the objects in this trail. You can pick up a map of the whole Museum at the Information Desk in the Great Court. Please note that some galleries may be closed at short notice due to unforeseen circumstances or refurbishment.

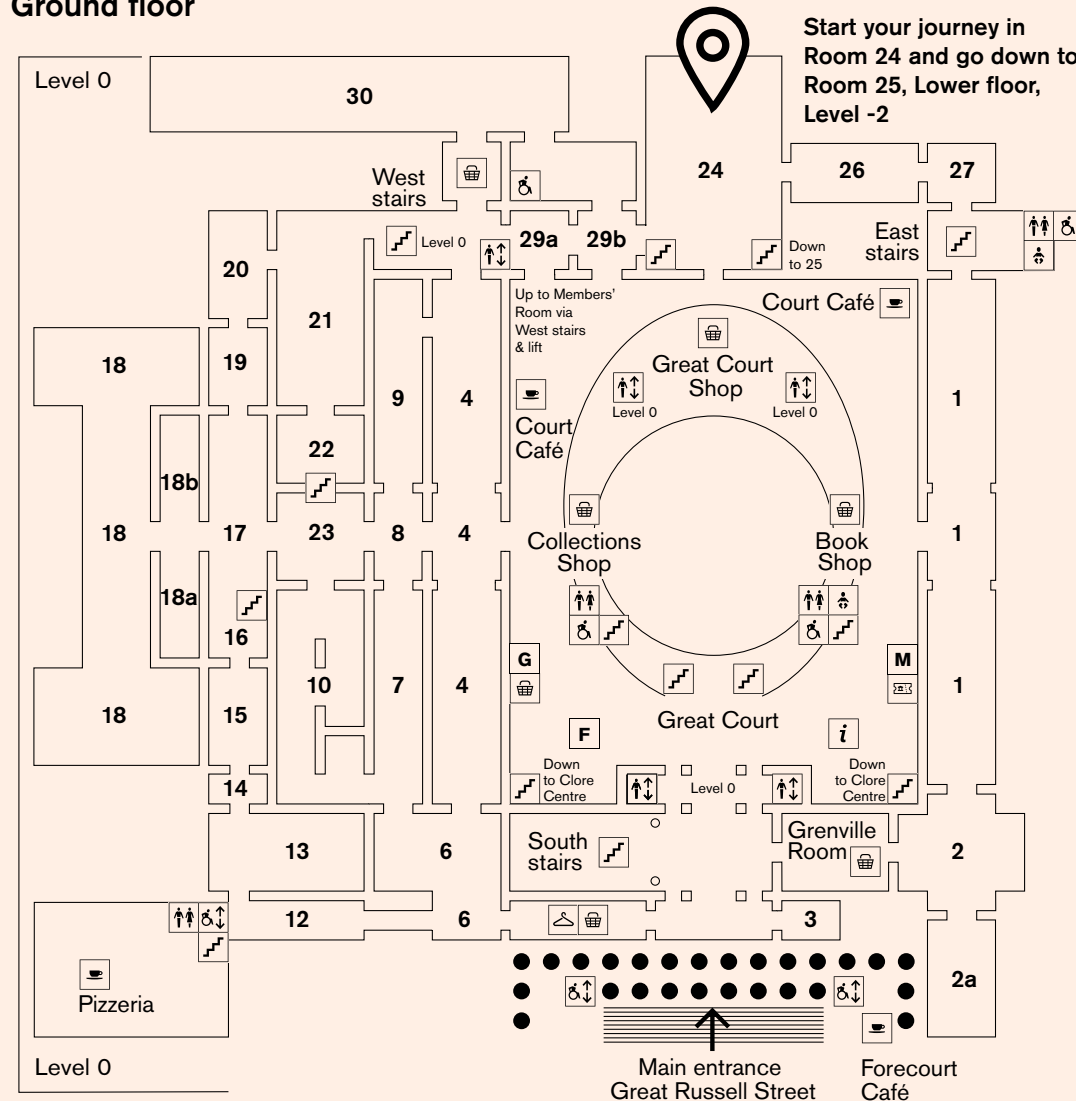
* The Families Desk is open on weekends and school holidays from 10.00–12.30 and 13.15–16.30

Toilets	Cloakroom	Membership Desk	Café
Accessible toilet	Shop	Families Desk*	Stairs
Baby changing	Information Desk	Guide Desk	Lift
Baby feeding	Ticket Desk	Great Court Restaurant	Level access lift

Lower floor



Ground floor



Embark on a beautiful and bright adventure as you explore the colours, shapes and patterns of Africa. What fascinating things will you find on your way?



Start your journey in Room 24 and go down to Room 25, Lower floor, Level -2. You'll need to go down a set of stairs to access Room 25. If you have a pushchair please use the lifts located by the Great Court shop.



Case numbers can be hard to find – don't be afraid to ask a member of staff for help finding an object



Mammy Wata
Room 25



Colourful cloths
Room 25



Slippery serpent
Room 25



Standing tall
Room 25



A flock of knives
Room 25



Vibrant vessels
Room 25

1 Mammy Wata



Go to Room 25, on the Lower floor, Level -2, and find Case 3

Look closely – can you find **Mammy Wata** and her colourful friends?



I am Mammy Wata. I live underwater. I bring love and life to the world. Let's use our eyes and imagination to find shapes and colours all around us.



Mammy Wata is a water deity or spirit, celebrated throughout much of Africa

Find and point to these colours:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red | <input type="checkbox"/> Blue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black | <input type="checkbox"/> White |

Look closely and find these shapes:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Triangle | <input type="checkbox"/> Circle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Square | <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond |

2 Colourful cloths



Look around Room 25 and choose a case filled with colourful textiles



Sewing and painting with hundreds of colours, people make patterns that make your eyes wander! Now, look closely...



People in Africa have made beautiful textiles like these for centuries and many of the designs have special meanings

Colours are everywhere. Can you find the colours below on the cloth on display?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red | <input type="checkbox"/> Purple |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orange | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown |

These objects are covered in patterns. Look closer and find these shapes:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stripes | <input type="checkbox"/> Stars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Triangles | <input type="checkbox"/> Zigzags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spots | <input type="checkbox"/> Squares |

Trace one of the shapes in the air with your finger. Can anyone guess what shape it is?

3 Slippery serpent



Find the wall covered in brass plaques nearby and look for the palace plaque to the left of the main display

I am the messenger of the water god Olokun. Some say I'm an angry adder, others a protective python. My brass body is slithering down the palace roof. I see you, do you see me?

Look carefully.

What shape are the spots on my slippery body?

What sound do I make?

The shape of my body looks like a letter of the alphabet. Can you guess which one?

Some say I wiggle, some say I zigzag.

Which do you think I do? Press your hands together and move like me.

4 Standing tall



Walk back past the gallery entrance and find the large wooden sculpture pictured here



We are a tower of people and animals. We are not squabbling, we are holding each other up, and together we are stronger!

Time to count!

How many people can you see? How many animals can you count?

Look closely and find:

- ☐ A man with a hat
- ☐ A spotty leopard
- ☐ An animal with horns
- ☐ A bird with a blue body

Imagine balancing all those people and animals on your shoulders.

Which one would be the heaviest? Which one would be the easiest to carry?



5 A flock of knives



Stay in Room 25 and find Case 18



We are floating in the air and we are formed of many different shapes. Some of us look like leaves, others like beaks. Some look like horns, others like snakes.

Look closely and find:

- ☐ The biggest knife
- ☐ The smallest knife
- ☐ A knife that looks like a flower
- ☐ A knife that looks like a bird

How many different shapes can you see?

Trace your favourite in the air with your finger.



6 Vibrant vessels



Find the tower of large pots reaching up to the ceiling nearby



We are made from decorated clay that has been shaped, smoothed and baked in fire.



Pottery is one of the oldest arts of Africa and in some parts the practice dates back more than 8,000 years

Look carefully at how we are decorated and find:

- ☐ Spots
- ☐ Triangles
- ☐ Stripes
- ☐ Spikes

We're all different shapes and sizes.

Which pot is the biggest? Pretend you're holding it in your arms – what would you put in it?

Now find your favourite!

Talk to your group about why you like it. If you could make your own pot, what colours and shapes would you decorate it with?





You have completed the colour and shape trail!

You can find even more fantastic things to see and do in other parts of the Museum:

- ☐ Discover turquoise from Mexico in Room 27
- ☐ Uncover gold and silver from Ancient Iran in Room 52
- ☐ Hunt for circles, squares and rectangles in Money in Room 68



Head back to the Families Desk to receive a stamp!

Well done. You've been busy. What fantastic colours and shapes you've found. Mammy Wata will be pleased! Of all the things you discovered, which was your favourite?

Name _____

Age _____

Date _____

Favourite object _____



At home



Complete the textile design using your favourite shapes and colours.

Other things you could do when you get home:

- ☐ Create your own shapes. Can you give your new shape a name?
- ☐ Build a paper mosaic with different colour paper squares – make it as colourful as you can!
- ☐ Learn to draw Mammy Wata. Can you remember all the colours you'll need?

