

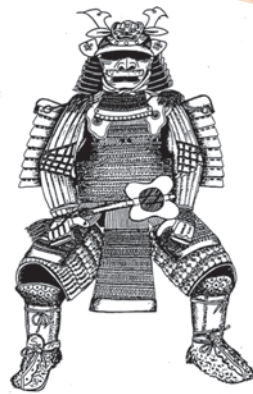
Weapons and armour

at the Pitt Rivers Museum

Did you know?

Japanese armour

The distinctive appearance of Japanese armour derives from the padded styles imported from China and Korea more than a thousand years ago.



Archery

The early samurai were mounted warriors, the bow taking precedence over the sword. Mounted archery was the most respected form of Japanese warfare until the introduction of guns in the 16th century. As a reflection of this, archery equipment was beautifully crafted and decorated.



Nihon-to swords

The legendary swordsmith Masamune Okazaki developed the classic *nihon-to* sword, a two-piece blade formed by sandwiching *shingane* (a soft low-carbon core) within *kawagane* (a hard jacket steel) to make a light and strong blade.



Making a sword

Making a Japanese sword is a complex process. It takes a swordsmith two weeks to forge a blade, as the steel may be folded up to 20 times. Polishing takes another two weeks, using polishing stones of ten or more different grit grades.

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Teachers' Info

Students' Info

Extra Info

Art

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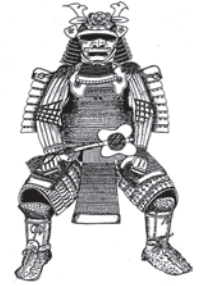
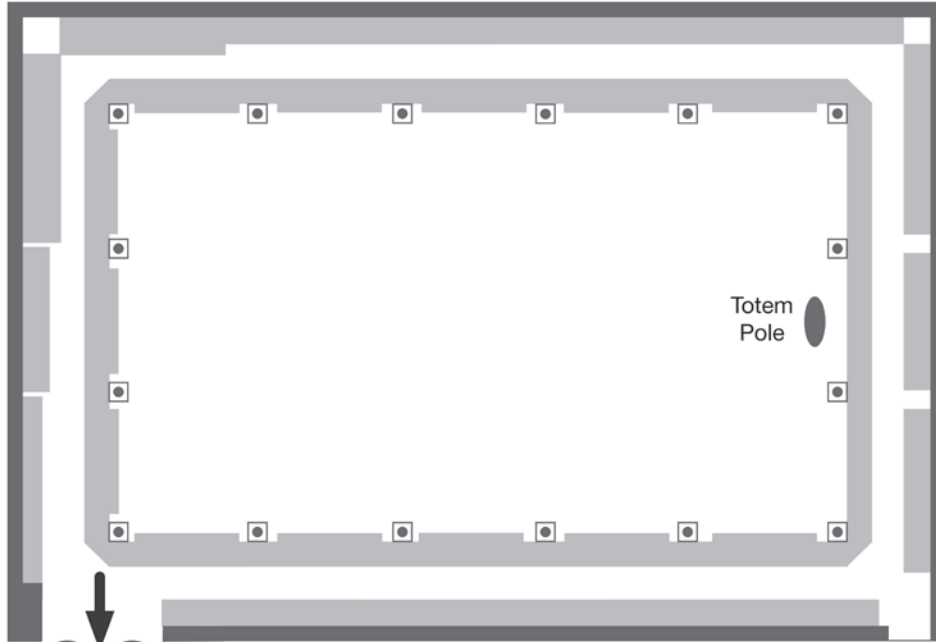
THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS
NATURAL HISTORY ASHMOLEAN
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Weapons and armour

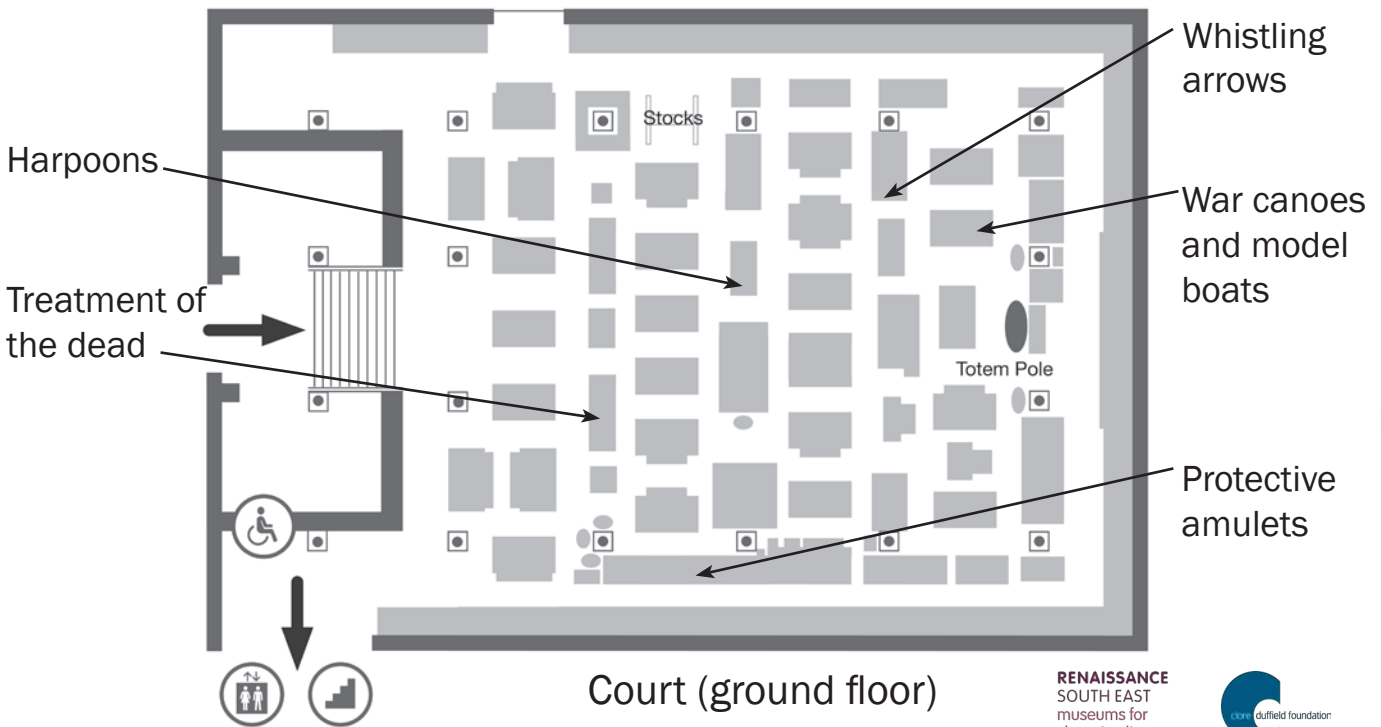
Map of the Pitt Rivers Museum

Teachers' Info

Students' Info



Upper Gallery (second floor)
Weapons, armour and hunting



Court (ground floor)

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Weapons and armour

Example sketchbook



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