

Pitt Rivers Museum

Top Ten

Key Stage 2

Visit Type: Self-led, some adult help needed

Key Stage: 2 (7-11 years)

Time: About 1 hour

Floors: Court, Lower Gallery and Upper Gallery

Supplies: Trails, pencils, writing surface (boards)

Guidance Notes:

This Top Ten Trail is aimed at Key Stage 2 students. Students will need to look closely at museum objects and are encouraged to think critically about the displays.

Please bring printed trails, pencils and, if required, boards for students to lean on (without metal clasps to protect the glass cases). You could consider starting groups on different floors. Allow about an hour to complete the trail.

Answers will depend on direct observations and close reading of case labels as well as students' prior knowledge. Our answers are provided below for guidance, but children may have their own interpretations.

Our Answers:

1. Function: What does it do?

This trap catches small game. When a deer or other small animal steps into the trap, the spikes stop it from withdrawing its foot.

2. Completeness: Is anything missing? The horns are missing.

3. Form: How was it used? Why is the collar so big?

The large collar on this armour protects the back of the wearer's neck from "friendly fire." In battle, women of the village throw rocks at the enemy and the collar stops them from hurting their own warriors.

Can you spot another hat? Porcupine fish helmets were also worn with this armour.

4. Compare: How is it different?

This shadow puppet is flat, 2D, has patterns cut into and is made out of leather.

The rod puppets in the case are round, 3D, very colourful, and made of fabric and wood.

The holes in the Wayang Kulit puppet create intricate shadows. Performances may be watched through a screen on the shadow side or on the lit side in front of the screen.

5. Materials: What is it made from?

Materials: coconut fibres, shells, bark, feathers.

From these materials, I think the environment was coastal.

6. Perspective: What can you see?

Across the gallery: sail, hull, "Salama". On the balcony: rope, eyes, outrigger/float.

7. Conservation: What happens?

The light turns on.

Why do you think the cloak is displayed this way?

The total exposure to light is limited by the curtain blocking light from the museum and the timer on the light. Together they work in the case to prevent the cloak from fading.

8. Identify: What is it? What animals can you see?

A house post from Haida Gwaii. Bear, person, raven, frog.

What features did you use to spot the animals?

The large hooked beak of the raven, the small round ears of the bear, the human hands of the person and the long legs and pointed face of the frog.

The animals on the totem pole record ancestry, status and rights similar to a family crest. Without knowledge of Haida culture, some animals are more difficult to identify.

9. Scale: How big is it?

A person **5** cm tall in the model is 100 cm tall in real life.

10. Opinion: What is your favourite object? Why?

Completely up to you!