

# CAPTIVATING CREATURES

Some animals walk, others climb, several swim and many fly. Korean folklore contains a variety of magnificent creatures that move through the universe in different ways, possess special powers, have unique appearances and symbolize important ideas. Throughout this guide, we'll learn about a few fascinating creatures that come to life in a variety of art forms, such as paintings and ceramics, which you can see in the exhibition *Everyday to the Extraordinary: Highlights from the Korean Collection*, on display at the Harn Museum of Art. Let's embark on an animal adventure and explore activities inspired by the captivating creatures and interesting artworks we encounter.

Come along!

"So,"  
the  
tiger  
growled,  
"While  
the  
emperor  
dreams,  
inked  
on  
his  
throne  
forever,  
I  
prowl  
the  
dark.  
I  
keep  
low  
ears  
I  
hooves  
flee? I  
want  
a deer  
tonight."

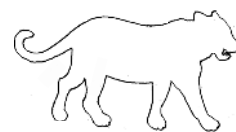
Shape Poem by Debora Greger

## Look! A Dragon!



Watch as this lively dragon, with its bulging eyes, scaly skin, sharp nails and flaring nostrils, winds its long body around the ceramic vessel. In Korean folklore, dragons have spiritual powers that repel evil spirits and bring good luck. How many toes do you count on this dragon's feet? Four toes indicates that this dragon is wise and powerful, capable of holding the pearl of wisdom in its claws.

How would you feel if you encountered this dragon? If you could touch it, then what do you think it would feel like? How do you think it would move? Would it move slowly and gracefully or quickly and chaotically? Try moving and bending your body in the ways you imagine the dragon would move its own body.



## Wow! A Tiger!

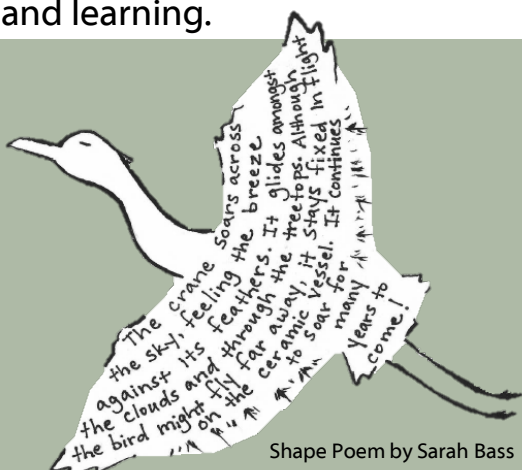
Decorated with spots and stripes, this ferocious creature is most recognizable by its magnificent coat. Korea's mountainous landscape was once home to many tigers, giving Korea the nickname, "Land of Tigers." This creature possesses supernatural powers and can chase away evil spirits. Tigers represent protection and courage as well as the Korean people themselves.

Here, the tiger comes to life in a hanging scroll, an art form that features a painted or calligraphic work and is made of paper, silk, pigments, ink and binding agents. When it is not hanging, it can be rolled up for portability and storage. Flip this guide over to uncover how you can create your own hanging scroll!



## Oh! A Crane!

On this small ceramic water dropper, a crane soars towards a group of wispy clouds. In Korean culture, cranes symbolize longevity. Water droppers were used to hydrate inkstones for calligraphy and painting. A water dropper is one of the important tools in a scholar's studio and represents high culture and learning.



Shape Poem by Sarah Bass

Shape poems are poems that take the form of the text's subject. Here is an example of a shape poem inspired by the flight and symbolism of the crane. Flip this guide over to discover how you can create your own creature-shaped poem.

## Watch Out! Creatures Abound!



Look closely at each of the eight panels of this folding screen. What animals do you see? You'll find creatures that fly, crawl, walk and swim. Some have shells, several have scales and a few have feathers. Along with the animals, each panel contains one of the calligraphic characters of the Eight Principles of Confucian Morality, such as loyalty, trust and integrity. The panels also feature the tools of a Confucian scholar, such as brushes and inkstones.

Flip this guide over to learn how to play the Exquisite Creature Game!



# HANGING SCROLL

Turn this guide into your very own hanging scroll, which you can proudly hang and display or roll up for safe keeping.

**What You'll Need:** Activity Guide, Wooden Dowel (12 in.), Liquid Glue, String (at least 18 in.), Scissors, Ruler & Pencil

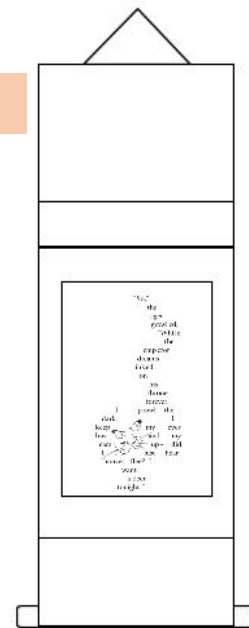
**What You'll Do:** Decide which side of the guide will be the front of your hanging scroll.

**For the Top of the Scroll:**

1. Fold the top edge of the guide to meet the solid red line.
2. Along the fold, make pencil marks about 3 inches from the right and left edges of the guide.
3. With scissors, cut small slits through the fold of the paper at the pencil marks.
4. Open the fold. Working from the inside of the fold, thread the left end of the string through the left slit and the right end of the string through the right slit. Pull the string ends all the way through the slits, making sure that there is an equal amount of string on both sides.
5. Make a thin trail of liquid glue along the red printed line.
6. Fold the top edge of the guide to meet the glue, closing the string within the fold.
7. Once dry, pull the two string ends together to form a triangle at the top of the guide. Tie a knot where the string ends meet.

**For the Bottom of the Scroll:**

1. Place the wooden dowel at the bottom edge of the guide, then curve the paper around the dowel to create a crease.
2. Center the wooden dowel on the bottom edge of the guide. Glue it in place and allow to dry.
3. Make a trail of liquid glue along the solid red line.
4. Tightly roll the glued dowel around the guide to meet the line of glue. Hold in place until dry.
  - **Tip:** Place a heavy object on the rolled dowel to hold in place until the glue dries.
5. Admire how your flat guide has transformed into a hanging scroll!

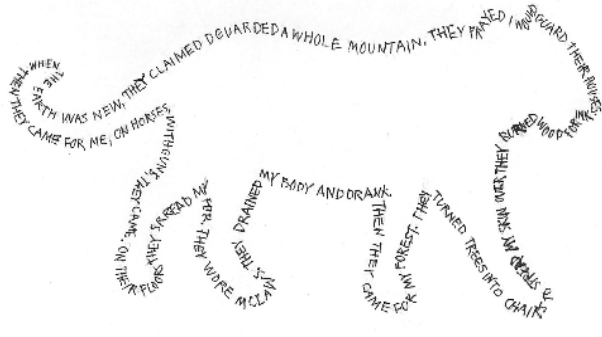


## SHAPE POEM

There are so many interesting creatures that can captivate our imaginations and inspire our creativity! Creativity can be expressed in a variety of ways, such as through writing poetry or drawing pictures. Let's make a shape poem to turn our words into a fascinating creature!

**What You'll Need:** Rice Paper or Thick Paper, Pencil, Eraser, Paintbrush, Sumi Ink, Pens and/or Colored Pencils and Protective Cover for your Work Surface

**Recommended Supplies:** Bamboo Paintbrushes, Yasutomo Black Sumi Ink and Yasutomo Rice Paper Sheets



Shape Poem by Debora Greger

**What You'll Do:**

1. Think about your favorite creature, real or imaginary. With a pencil, draw a faint outline of that creature's body on a piece of paper. Avoid overlapping body parts and adding small details, such as facial features.
2. Create a poem about your creature. Ways to start your poem:
  - Imagine: "When I was a dragon . . ." or "If I were a crane . . ."
  - Talk to the animal: "Tiger, let me ask you . . ."
  - Let the animal talk: "The crab said, 'I want to go outside . . .'"
3. Dip the tip of a brush into the sumi ink and gently roll/pull it against the inner edge of the ink container to remove excess ink and to shape the brush into a point.
4. Use the inked brush to write your poem on your creature. Experiment with these two approaches:
  - Write your poem along the pencil outline, letting your words form the outline of your animal shape.
  - Fill in the shape with your poem. The words can form orderly rows throughout the shape or follow the curves of the outline to make a spiral of words.
5. With your paintbrush, pens or colored pencils, add defining characteristics to your creature, such as eyes, whiskers or feet. You can also immerse your creature into a landscape by drawing natural elements, such as mountains, trees or clouds.
6. After your shape poem dries, carefully erase your pencil outlines to observe how your words shape your animal and how your drawings give your creature personality.

**Try This!**

- A shape poem can also be one word! Using decorative, handwritten letters, fill the shape of your animal with your word. Adjust the sizes of the letters within the word to fit the shape of the animal.

## EXQUISITE CREATURE GAME

We've learned about some amazing creatures, now let's play a game in which we create our own!

Using drawings, words, secrecy and surprise, this game reveals an exquisite creature on a folding screen when complete.

**What You'll Need:** Paper, Pencil & 2 to 4 players

**What You'll Do:**

1. Fold a sheet of paper into an accordion fold to divide the paper into four equal sections. First, fold the paper in half so that the short edges meet. Next, pull one of the short edges back to meet the fold. Flip the paper over and repeat with the other short edge. See the example to the right.
2. Lay the folded paper flat on your work surface and position it vertically with the folded edge of the first section on the right.

**Let's Play!**

In this game, each player will draw a portion of a creature's body and write a sentence describing the creature on one section of the folded paper. When working on a section, the player must hide their creature from the other players. Depending on the number of players, each player will get their own section, or the players will alternate turns until each section of the miniature folding screen is filled. Once all sections are complete, unfold the paper to reveal the exquisite creature!

**Section #1:**

1. Draw the head of your creature. Does it have fuzzy ears, long antennae, big eyes or spikey whiskers? Let the lines of your drawing extend slightly past the fold so that the next player knows where to start their drawing on the next section.
2. Write a sentence describing where your creature lives.
3. When you are finished, fold over this section to reveal the second section. Only one section of the paper should be visible at a time.

**Section #2:**

1. Using the first player's pencil marks as a starting point, draw the torso of the creature. Does your creature have shiny scales, soft fur, bumpy skin or thick stripes?
2. Write a sentence describing what your creature likes to do for fun. Does it like to swim, run, play or sleep?
3. When finished, fold the section over to reveal the next section.

**Section #3:**

1. Starting where the second player's lines stop, draw another portion of the creature's body. Does it have long legs, delicate fins, tiny toes or sharp nails?
2. Write a sentence describing how the creature moves through its environment. Does it hop, crawl or slither? Does it move fast or slow?
3. When finished, fold the section over to reveal the last section.

**Section #4:**

1. Following the pencil marks from the previous section, draw the bottom portion of your creature. Does it have a long, slender tail or a big tuft of feathers?
2. Write a sentence describing what your creature likes to eat.
3. When you are finished drawing and writing, unfold the paper to reveal one creature made from four different parts!
4. Stand the paper up to display your exquisite creature on a miniature folding screen.

**Try This!**

- Use colored pencils to add color to your exquisite creature.
- Challenge each player to complete their section within a restricted amount of time.



Exquisite Creature by Sarah Bass & Briana Rosa

## FAMILY GUIDE CREDITS

This guide was created by Sarah Bass, Spring 2021 Family Programs Intern, and Paige Willis, Family Programs Coordinator, in collaboration with Debora Greger, Poet-in-Residence.

- Unknown Korean artist, *Wine Bottle (Sulbyeong)*, Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910), 18<sup>th</sup> century, Porcelain, Gift of General James A. Van Fleet
- Seok Mo Ro-in, Korean, *Tiger*, Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910), late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Ink & color on paper, Museum purchase, funds provided by The David A. Cofrin Fund for Asian Art
- Unknown Korean artist, *Water Dropper*, Late 19<sup>th</sup>–early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Ceramic, Museum purchase, funds provided by the David A. Cofrin Fund for Asian Art
- Unknown Korean artist, *Munjado-Chaekkori Screen*, 20<sup>th</sup> century, Folding screen, ink & color on paper, Museum purchase, funds provided by the Robert H. & Kathleen M. Axline Acquisition Endowment



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