



DOUBLE GOURD (*hulu* 葫蘆)

LOOK FOR THE VASE WITH RED BATS.

In Daoist teachings, a double gourd was a small symbol of the universe, uniting Heaven and Earth. It was thought to have magical powers and was able to protect from evil forces because of this, the double gourd is a lucky symbol of good fortune, happiness and wealth.



CRANE (*he* 鶴)

IN THE SECTION OF THE EMPEROR'S TREASURES, LOOK FOR THE CRANE ON AN EMBROIDERED PICTURE.

The crane appeared in Daoist stories about immortality and was a symbol of long life.

Can you think of other animals that may be seen as a lucky symbol?



Find more Good Luck symbols at the end of the Exhibition among the Emperor's Treasures.

HINT:

AT HOME ACTIVITY

At home, draw a cup, plate or jug in the shape of an animal, decorate it with good luck symbols. Tweet your creation to #ROMKidsFC.

ROM FAMILY TRAIL

LUCKY SYMBOLS IN THE FORBIDDEN CITY

Symbols adorned almost everything in the Forbidden City. Go on a search through the special exhibit to find mythical creatures, words, animals, and plants that express good fortune, happiness, and auspicious blessings.



SHOU (壽)

LOOK FOR THE LARGE JAR OPPOSITE THE THRONE.

Shou was the traditional Chinese character for "longevity". It was written 10,000 times, in 975 different styles on this vase.



LOOK FOR THESE FLOOR SYMBOLS TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE EXHIBIT

Did you Know?

The number 10,000 was the highest unit in Chinese accounting and signified eternal life.



DRAGON (*long* 龍)

LOOK FOR THE CEREMONIAL SUMMER ROBE AFTER THE BELLS.

The dragon is a legendary creature whose body was made of many parts from different animals, making it the most powerful of all creatures. In the Qing Dynasty, the dragon was used as a symbol of the emperor—the ultimate symbol of imperial power.

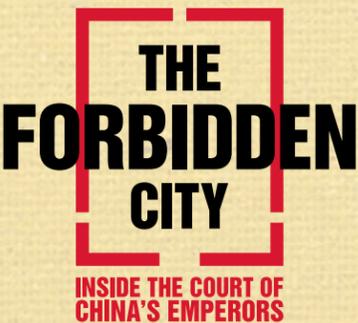


Take a close look at a dragon and list the different animals you can identify.

Did you Know?

A dragon with 5 claws on each leg was a symbol of the Emperor. Everyone else's dragons have less.

CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPLETING THE FAMILY TRAIL.





BAT (*fu* 蝠)

IN THE EMPEROR'S OFFICE, BEHIND THE SHADOW PUPPET SCREEN, YOU'LL FIND OUR NEXT LUCKY SYMBOL.

The character for bat, *fu* (蝠), was pronounced the same as *fu* (福), a Chinese word for happiness and good fortune. The bat was therefore an emblem of prosperity.



BUTTERFLY (*hudie* 蝴蝶)

YOU WILL FIND THE BUTTERFLY ON THE ROBE USED BY THE EMPRESS DOWAGER.

The word *hu* sounded like the words for good fortune and happiness, and *die* sounded like the word for "longevity" (*die* 耄). So butterflies embodied a wish for a long and happy life. A pair of butterflies symbolized marital harmony, affection, and fidelity.



PINE TREE (SONG 松)

STEP INTO THE INNER COURT AND LOOK FOR THE LARGE PAINTING OF EMPEROR DAOGUANG ENJOYING AN AUTUMN DAY IN THE GARDEN TO FIND THE PINE TREE.

Pine trees were symbols of longevity and immortality.



What are some trees and plants that have special meaning for you?



LOTUS FLOWER (*lian* 蓮 or *he* 荷)

LOOK FOR THE THREE LARGE PAINTINGS OF WOMEN. HERE YOU WILL FIND THE LOTUS ON ONE OF THE PAINTINGS.

The lotus was highly regarded in Buddhism and among scholars because its flower, standing above muddy waters, embodied purity and perfection. The name of the flower, *he*, also sounded the same as the word for "harmony" (*he* 和).



PEONY (*mudan* 牡丹)

LOOK FOR THE DESIGN PRINT ACROSS FROM THE DOG OUTFIT.

The peony was an esteemed flower, that symbolized wealth and nobility.



Did you Know?

Aside from symbols, there were also lots of lucky numbers. The 8 lucky Buddhist symbols makes the number 8 lucky too.



PHOENIX (*feng* 鳳)

AMONG THE WOMEN'S FASHIONS YOU WILL FIND THE PHOENIX.

The phoenix was a celestial bird that came to represent the empress, to complement the dragon of the emperor.

If you had to invent your own mythical creature, what would it look like?



ELEPHANT (*xiang* 象)

ENTER THE EMPEROR'S PRIVATE SPACE, LOOK FOR THE PAINTING THAT SHOWS THE WASHING OF AN ELEPHANT.

The word for elephant sounded like the word for "image" (*xiang* 象) in the phrase "image of a peaceful regime" (*taiping you xiang* 太平有象). It therefore represented peace. It also symbolized the Buddhist concept that our physical world is an illusion.



What animal would you pick as your lucky animal?