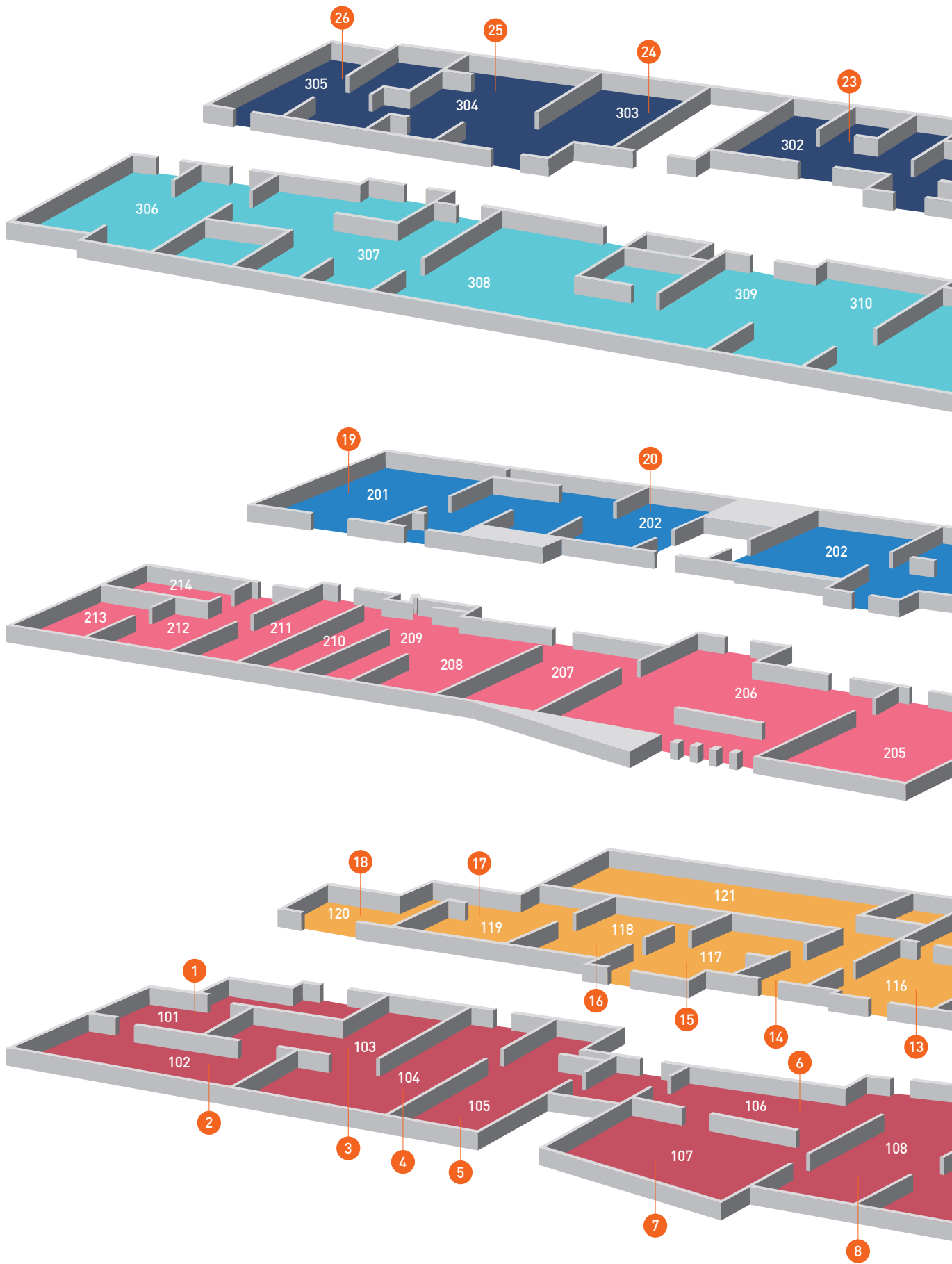
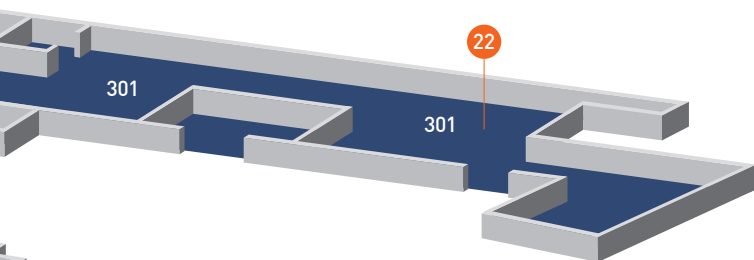


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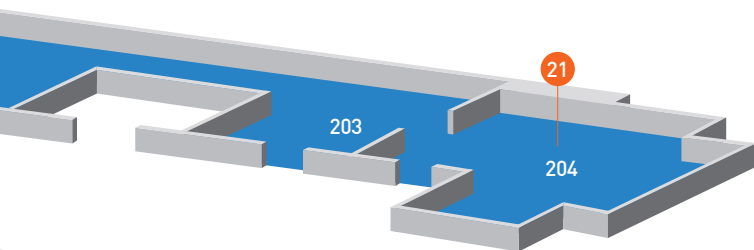
Masterpieces
from the National Museum of Korea



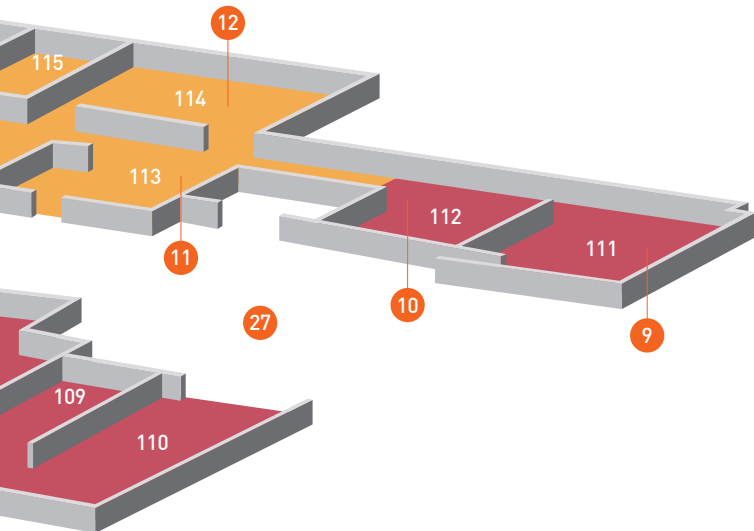




Sculpture and Crafts
Asian Art 3F



Calligraphy and Painting
Donated Works 2F



Medieval and Early Modern History
Prehistory and Ancient History 1F

Prehistory and Ancient History

- 101 Paleolithic Period
- 102 Neolithic Period
- 103 Bronze Age/Gojoseon Period
- 104 Buyeo Kingdom/Samhan Period
- 105 Goguryeo Kingdom Period
- 106 Baekje Kingdom
- 107 Gaya Confederacy
- 108 Silla Kingdom
- 109 Silla Kingdom
- 110 Silla Kingdom
- 111 Unified Silla Period
- 112 Balhae Kingdom

Medieval and Early Modern History

- 113 Goryeo Dynasty I
- 114 Goryeo Dynasty II
- 115 Thematic Exhibition
- 116 Goryeo Dynasty III
- 117 Joseon Dynasty I · II
- 118 Joseon Dynasty III
- 119 Joseon Dynasty IV
- 120 Joseon Dynasty V
- 121 Special Exhibition

Calligraphy and Painting

- 201 Calligraphy
- 202 Painting
- 203 Buddhist Painting
- 204 Sarangbang (Scholar's Studio)

Donated Works

- 205 Lee Hong-kun Gallery
- 206 Individual Donations
- 207 Kim Chong-hak Gallery
- 208 Yu Kang-yul Gallery
- 208 Park Young-sook Gallery
- 209 Choi Young-do Gallery
- 210 Park Byoung-rae Gallery
- 211 Kaneko Kazushige Gallery
- 212 Yoo Chang-jong Gallery
- 213 Hachiuma Tadasu Gallery
- 214 Iuchi Isao Gallery

Sculpture and Crafts

- 301 Buddhist Sculpture
- 302 Metal Crafts
- 303 Celadon
- 304 Buncheong Ware
- 305 White Porcelain

Asian Art

- 306 Indian and Southeast Asia
- 307 Central Asia
- 308 China
- 309 Sinan Shipwreck Collection
- 310 Sinan Shipwreck Collection
- 311 Japan

Outdoor

- Exhibitions

HAND AXE

1. Why do you think this is called a “hand axe”?

- ① It was gripped in the hand.
- ② It was as big as a person’s fist.
- ③ It looked like a person’s fist.
- ④ It had paintings of a hand on it.



COMB PATTERN POTTERY

2. What was this item most likely used for?

- ① A bowl to store food
- ② A bucket to collect water
- ③ A bowl to burn incense
- ④ A helmet to protect the head



BRONZE RITUAL ARTIFACT

3. What are the people on this bronze artifact doing?

- ① Raising animals
- ② Fishing
- ③ Farming
- ④ Dancing



DUCK-SHAPED POTTERY

4. What were these potteries used for?

- ① Holding candles
- ② Decorating rooms
- ③ Holding liquids for rituals and ceremonies
- ④ Women's fashion items



5. Where was this mural excavated from?

① Castle

② War site

③ School

④ Tomb



6. On the lid of the incense burner, how many people can you find who are playing musical instruments?

① 3 people

② 5 people

③ 7 people

④ 9 people



PLATE ARMOR AND HELMET



7. Look closely at each plate of armor and draw the shape of the plates in the box.



SILLA GOLD BELT

8. Which of these things is NOT included in the Silla Gold Belt?



① Fish

② Book

③ Curved jade

④ Sheath

DICE WITH INSCRIPTION

9. Which of these is NOT one of the penalties written on the dice?

- ① Stay still while being tickled
- ② Recite a poetry from memory
- ③ Dance without making any noise
- ④ Turn around 10 times in the same spot



STONE DRAGON HEAD STATUE

10. What was this artifact used for?

- ① Decorating a castle
- ② As the head of a stone statue
- ③ Decorating a pagoda
- ④ As a town landmark



POMEGRANATE-SHAPED WATER DROPPER

11. What kind of fruit is the monkey hugging?

- ① Plum
- ② Apple
- ③ Pomegranate
- ④ Peach



STONE COFFIN

12. Match each description with one of the four sides of the stone coffin.



Ⓐ

① Blue dragon protecting the East



Ⓑ

② White tiger protecting the West



Ⓒ

③ Phoenix protecting the South



Ⓓ

④ Tortoise protecting the North

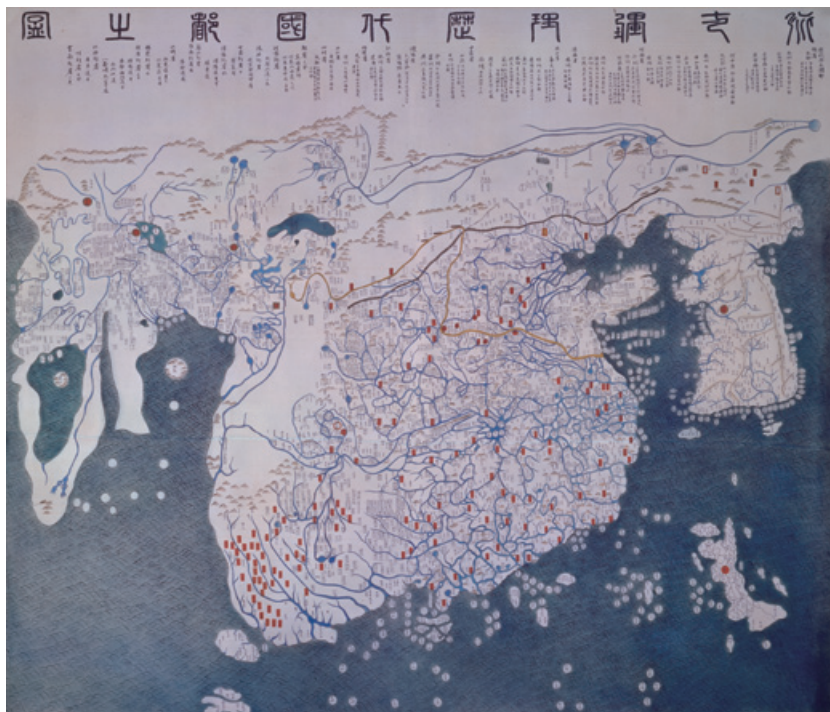


13. Why does this artifact have an oval-shaped dent on the back?

- ① The makers wanted to reduce the amount of copper used.
- ② There were some problems while they were making the type.
- ③ This was a popular type-making technique at the time.
- ④ It was damaged during the excavation process.



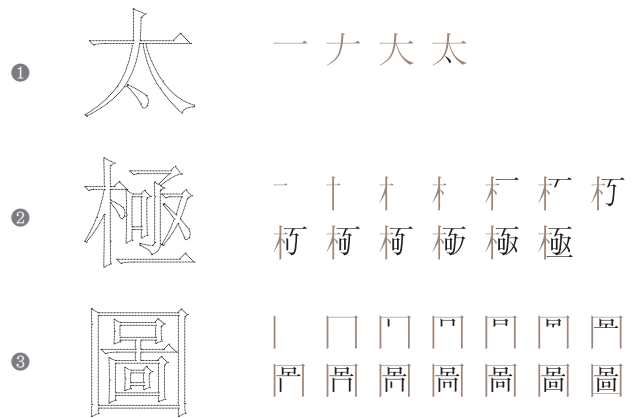
14. Find Joseon and circle it on the map.



15. What does this picture illustrate?



- ① Constellation ② Mathematics
- ③ Confucianism ④ Family history



16. Males above what age had to carry this identification tag?



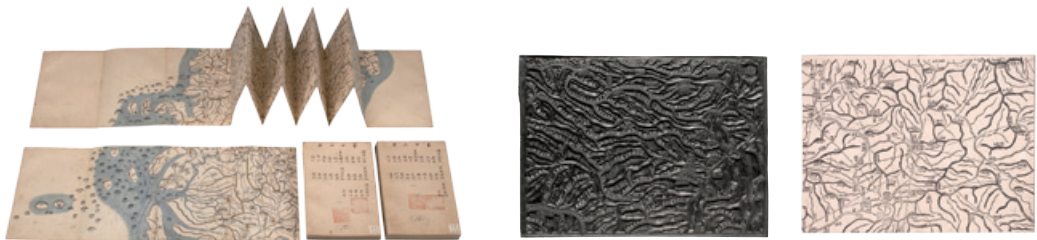
- ① 14 years old
- ② 16 years old
- ③ 18 years old
- ④ 20 years old



DAEDONGNYEOJIDO

17. Read the explanation of Daedongnyeojido and fill in the blanks.

- ① Kim Jeong-ho divided Joseon into 120 ri from north to south, separating it into _____ sections.
- ② Each section was designed to form _____ volume when folded.



ROYAL SEAL OF THE EMPIRE OF KOREA

18. Which animal is on the handle?

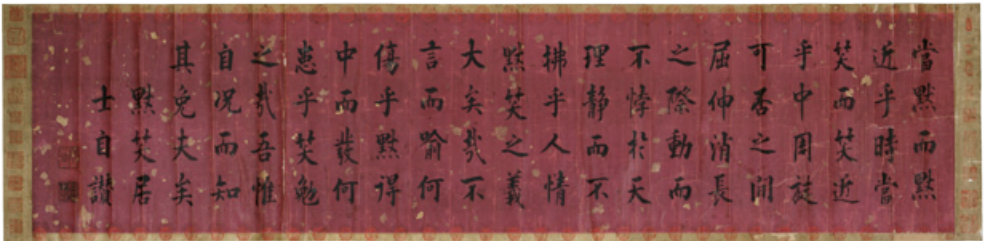
- ① Crocodile
- ② Dragon
- ③ Dog
- ④ Lion



KIM JEONG-HUI CHUSA’S SELF-PRAISE OF MUKSOGEOSA

19. Can you find three other pieces in the Calligraphy Room by this author?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____



20. Pick any painting from the album and answer the two questions below.



① How many people are in the painting?

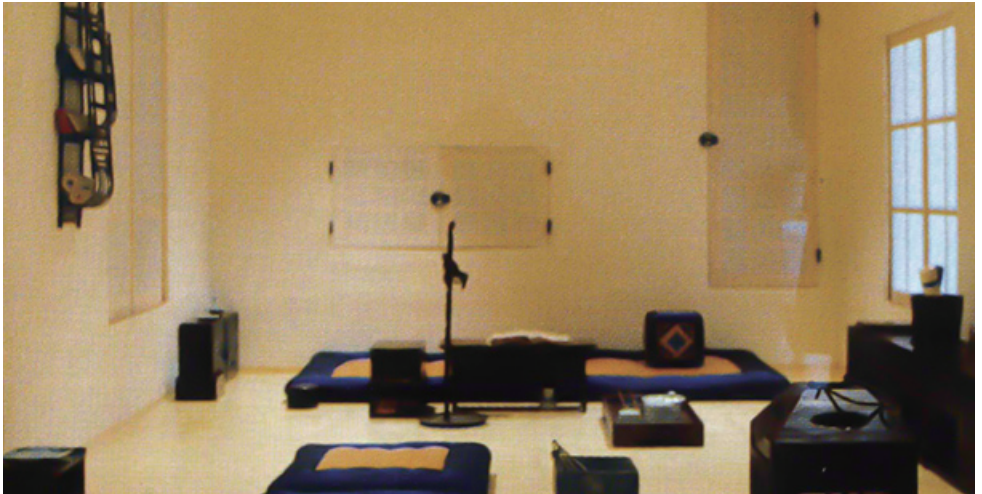
② What is the title of the painting?

Example) 7 Players and a Dancer



21. Which of these items is NOT present in the Seon-bi (Joseon scholar) room?

- ① Reading table ② Book
③ Brush ④ Mirror



22. Look at these two National Treasures and answer the questions below.

- ① Which statue has a crown decorated with the sun and moon?

National Treasure

- ② Which statue has no clothing on its upper body?

National Treasure



National Treasure No. 78



National Treasure No. 83

RELIQUARY

23. This elaborate chest was called a “reliquary.”
What was stored in this reliquary?

- ① Small crystals from the cremated remains of monks
- ② Buddhist scripture
- ③ Buddhist paintings
- ④ Clothing



CELADON WITH INCISED LOTUS-SCROLL DESIGN

24. Look closely at the beautiful celadon and circle all the different colors you can see.



- | | |
|--------|-----------|
| Blue | Purple |
| Red | Black |
| Orange | Turquoise |
| Yellow | Green |
| Grey | White |
| Pink | |

TURTLE-SHAPED BOTTLE

25. What was this artifact used for?

- ① A portable bottle to hold water or liquor
- ② A bottle to hold perfume
- ③ A container to hold water for making ink
- ④ A vase to hold flowers



WHITE PORCELAIN WITH PLUM AND BAMBOO DESIGN IN IRON-BROWN UNDERGLAZE

26. This porcelain is decorated with which two plants?

- ① Plum tree
- ② Orchid
- ③ Chrysanthemum
- ④ Bamboo

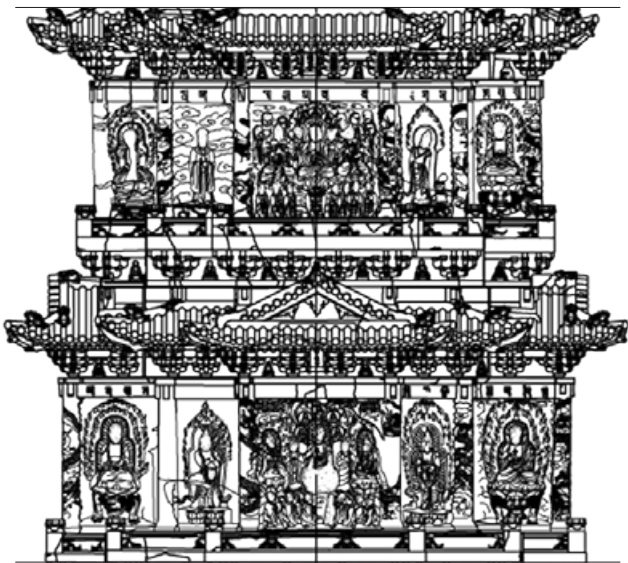


TEN-STORY PAGODA



27. Inside this pagoda, there is an inscription.
What is the inscription about?

- ① Buddhism
- ② Taoism
- ③ Judaism
- ④ Christianity



BOSINGAK BELL

28. The main purpose of the Bosingak Bell was to _____ .



- ① Warn of an enemies' attack
- ② Announce the King's daily walk
- ③ Announce the opening and closing times of the castle
- ④ Signal the prayer time at the Buddhist temple



THREE-STORY PAGODAS

29. Look at the pagoda and match the correct name with each part in the photograph.

Capstone ①

Column ②

Pedestal ③

Ⓐ

Ⓑ

Ⓒ



SANCHEONG MAECHON-RI RUIN'S DIVISION-TYPE DOLMEN

30. What is under this dolmen?

① Well

② Tunnel

③ Storage

④ Tombstone



ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS!

1. HAND AXE, PALEOLITHIC AGE

This hand axe was excavated from the prehistoric site of Jeongok-ri, Yeoncheon, in Gyeonggi-do. Hand axes with sharpened blade edges did not appear until about 1 million years later, when humans first began producing tools. A hand axe is a significant artifact in human evolution, because it was produced when humans began to freely stand up and think. **ANSWER - 1**

2. COMB PATTERN POTTERY, NEOLITHIC AGE

This pottery, which first appeared on the Korean Peninsula before 6000 BCE, displays considerable evidence of Neolithic culture. The geometric “line and dot pattern” covering the entire vessel characterizes the aesthetic quality of the era. Special tools were made to apply the patterns and designs to the pottery. This piece also shows the development of tool-making techniques, such as cutting stone and bone into desired shapes and grinding parts or entire pieces. The development of tools also greatly improved methods for finding and storing food. **ANSWER - 1**

3. BRONZE RITUAL ARTIFACT, BRONZE AGE/GOJOSEON

The right front side of this artifact features an engraving of a man digging up the land and a man holding up a hoe. On the left, a person is placing things into a jar. The opposite side shows a tree with two branches where two birds are sitting. This object presents a detailed image of farming life during the Bronze Age, and also suggests the level of painting of the time. **ANSWER - 3**

4. DUCK-SHAPED POTTERY, BUYEO/SAMHAN

This vessel was used to hold liquids for ceremonial or memorial services for ancestors. Historic records indicate that a bird was believed to deliver the soul to the afterlife, so this earthenware pottery symbolizes an intermediary that delivers a deceased person's soul to heaven. **ANSWER - 3**

5. HUNTING SCENE, GOGURYEO

The tomb mural from Goguryeo is among the most internationally recognized cultural legacies of the Korean people. The paintings decorate the interior of tombs, most of which were built after the fourth century, when Goguryeo was in contact with various foreign cultures in the course of expanding its territory. The motifs of the murals provide useful clues about when the tombs were made. **ANSWER - 4**

6. INCENSE BURNER, BAEKJE

This incense burner, which consists of a stand, a body, and a lid, was used in royal court ceremonies. A masterpiece of extraordinary quality, the burner features carvings of a robust dragon, lotus buds, an enchanting landscape, and heavenly beings playing musical instruments. A freestanding phoenix is perched atop the lid. **ANSWER - 2**

7. PLATE ARMOR AND HELMET, GAYA

This armor was excavated from tomb No. 32 in Goryeong, Gyeongsangbuk-do. The long iron plates are attached to each other with nails. This type of armor has also been found in other regional areas, so it was quite popular during the Three Kingdoms period. The middle of the helmet is angled in order to better protect the warrior's head, and the lower part of the helmet has three iron plates to protect the neck. In Gaya, armor did not only serve a practical function; it also symbolized power. **ANSWER - REFER TO THE IMAGE**



8. GOLD BELT, SILLA

This belt consisted of decorative plaques, originally with a leather backing, as well as pendants featuring a series of different ornaments. Most belts had around 10 pendants with ornaments such as small jade stones, thin gold plates, small knives, fish, needle cases, and whetstones. These ornaments presumably represented objects commonly carried by North Asian nomads on their belts, showing a distinctive element of North Asian life in Silla culture. **ANSWER - 2**

9. DICE WITH INSCRIPTION, UNIFIED SILLA

This die was used for games played by noble people in the Unified Silla period. It has 14 wooden faces, with each side describing a penalty for the player. This game piece was excavated from the Royal Resort Pond, Anapji, which is a manmade body of water attached to the palace of the crown prince, located to the east of Wolseong, the main palace of Silla. **ANSWER - 4**

10. DRAGON HEAD, BALHAE

The architecture of Balhae can be studied through the remains of royal palaces, government offices, homes, and temples. These structures were located both in and outside the city walls. This statue, “Dragon Head,” was inserted into decorations and statues on the exterior walls of the castle to guard against evil spirits. **ANSWER - 1**

11. POMEGRANATE-SHAPED WATER DROPPER, GORYEO

This water dropper was supposedly used by the upper class of Gaegyeong, a capital city of Goryeo. The water poured out from the mouth of the monkey, who is holding the pomegranate. **ANSWER - 3**

12. STONE COFFIN, GORYEO

This is the stone coffin of Heo Jae, a scholar from the Goryeo period. The small size is typical of coffins from that period. Four directional deities—tortoise, white tiger, phoenix, and blue dragon—and twelve animals of the zodiac are inscribed on the exterior of the coffin, symbolizing good luck.

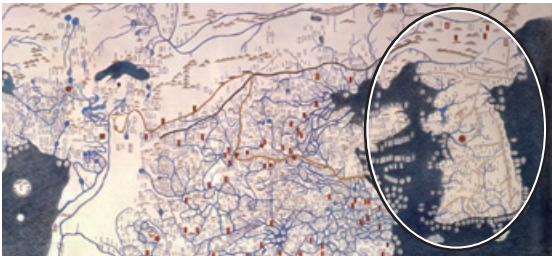
ANSWER - A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3

13. METAL TYPE OF THE GORYEO PERIOD, GORYEO

This original metal type of the Goryeo period is a cast of the Chinese character “Bok.” This artifact is thought to have been excavated from a tomb in Gaegyeong, the capital of Goryeo. The shape of the type is uneven and the lengths of the sides are not symmetrical. The back of the cast is indented in an oval shape, indicating a strategy to reduce the amount of copper used. Although the casting technique is less sophisticated than the technique later developed during the Joseon period, the piece is significant for its demonstration of the expertise of the Goryeo period and also for its place in the history of Korean typesetting techniques. Only one other piece of metal type from the Goryeo period has survived, which is kept at the Gyeongju Museum in North Korea. ANSWER - 1

14. INTEGRATED MAP OF HISTORICAL CAPITALS (HONIL GANGNI YEOKDAE GUKDO JIDO), JOSEON

In ancient maps, Korea was usually shown to be larger than its relative size compared with neighboring countries, as typified by the “INTEGRATED MAP OF HISTORICAL CAPITALS,” made in 1402. This trend derived from the Korean people’s great pride in their country. This map is noteworthy in that it presents Arabia, Europe, and Africa, which were the only continents known to Koreans at that time. Both China and Korea are presented in remarkable detail. ANSWER - REFER TO THE IMAGE



15. ILLUSTRATIONS ABOUT THE KEY POINTS OF CONFUCIANISM, JOSEON

In the 16th century, rural Neo-Confucian Literati organized schools and political groups. They took control of the capital bureaucracy, and then developed the theory that the king should study Neo-Confucianism and rule the state together with his subjects. This policy became the theoretical foundation of factional politics. ANSWER - 3

16. IDENTIFICATION TAG, JOSEON

In the Joseon period, every man above the age of 16 was required to carry an identity tag, which showed their name, year of birth, date when their tag was issued, and the authority who issued the tag. The tags were made of different materials, depending on the person’s class and job. For example, in 1677, identity tags for officials ranked above

grade 2 were made of ivory, while tags for men below grade 3 were made of cow’s horn, and those for common people were made of wood. When a man received his identity tag, he was also required to register for the census and his military service, so he became eligible for military and civic duties. Because many common people did not want such duties, they did not want to carry their own identity tags, so the government enacted laws and regulations against identity tag forgery. ANSWER - 2

17. DAEDONGNYEJOJIDO, JOSEON

The woodblocks of Daedongnyeojido, made from linden trees, were engraved by Kim Jeong-ho in 1861, and then retouched several times afterwards. The Territorial Map of the Great East (Daedongnyeojido), made by Kim Jeong-ho (ca. 1804-ca. 1866), is one of the greatest maps from the late Joseon period. On this map, the national territory is divided into 22 sections running approximately 120 ri from north to south, with each section designed to form a single volume when folded. ANSWER - 22, 1

18. ROYAL SEAL OF THE EMPIRE OF KOREA, JOSEON

When King Gojong ascended to the throne, he proclaimed the country the “Empire of Korea.” He then reorganized the government and renamed official positions to reflect the new stature of the empire. Even the Royal Seals were modified to suit the new dignity of the empire. ANSWER - 2

19. KIM JEONG-HUI CHUSA’S SELF-PRAISAL OF MUKSOGEOA, JOSEON

In this work of calligraphy, Kim Jeong-hui expressed his admiration for Moksogesa (“hermit of silence and laughter”), one of several courtesy names he was also known by. The writing translates to: “Be silent when it is proper to be silent and laugh when it is proper to laugh, for this is close to the Golden Mean.” The calligraphy is characterized by pleasant rugged and whimsical features.

ANSWER - SEAL, BOOK OF IMPRESSIONS OF SEALS, INKSTONE

20. ALBUM OF GENRE PAINTINGS OF DANWON (KIM HONG-DO), JOSEON

A master of genre painting, Kim Hong-do (1745-after 1806) closely observed ordinary people from different walks of life and reinterpreted scenes from their lives with characteristic humor.

This particular work a dancer features a circular composition created by the cheerful movements of the boy dancing to the music played by traditional Korean instruments, namely a drum, an hourglass drum, a bamboo oboe, a large Korean transverse bamboo flute, and a two-string fiddle.

ANSWERS WILL VARY

21. SARANGBANG, JOSEON

In the Joseon period, the role and status of men and women were strictly separated due to the influence of neo-Confucianism. Even in a single household, the space for men and women was divided so that Sarangbang, a place for the male host, was separated from Anbang, a place for the female host. Sarangbang was more than just a residence; it was a place of great significance to scholars. ANSWER - 4

22. PENSIVE BODHISATTVA, THREE KINGDOMS PERIOD

The National Treasure No. 78 statue wears a tall crown decorated by a sun and moon. This type of crown originated from Sassanian Persia. Featuring an enigmatic smile, natural pose, harmonious body parts, rhythmical expression of clothing, and a waistband, this pensive Bodhisattva exhibits a much different sculpture style than the National Treasure No. 83 Pensive Bodhisattva. The figures of both statues have one leg crossed atop the other and fingers placed on the cheeks, as if they are lost in thought. This characteristic pose was derived from Buddha's posture while contemplating the life of a human being. National Treasure No. 83 is depicted wearing a flat crown called the "Three Mountain Crown" or "Lotus Crown." It wears a simple necklace over a naked torso. This statue is remarkably similar to the wooden pensive bodhisattva at the Koryuji temple in Kyoto, Japan, which is believed to have been founded by a Silla monk. Because of this connection, some believe that this statue was created during the Silla period, but its well-balanced shape and elegant, refined craftsmanship are more characteristic of the Baekje period. **ANSWER - 78, 83**

23. RELIQUARY, UNIFIED SILLA

Gameunsa Temple was founded by King Sinmun in 682 in memory of his deceased father, King Munmu, who unified the Three Kingdoms. Today, only the east and west pagodas and the site of the temple remain. Bronze reliquaries were excavated from the third floor of both the east and west pagoda, each of which held a crystal bottle containing "sarira," which are crystals often found among the cremated remains of Buddhist monks. The reliquary from the east pagoda is a masterpiece that exhibits the exquisite craftsmanship of metal work in the Unified Silla period. **ANSWER - 1**

24. CELADON WITH INCISED LOTUS-SCROLL DESIGN, GORYEO

This celadon vase has a beautiful blue-green glaze with splendid decorative engravings typical of Korean designs. Its soft lines from the round shoulder to the foot nicely capture the unique curves of Goryeo celadon. The lotuses and vines engraved across the body, together with the blue-green glaze, create striking beauty. **ANSWERS WILL VARY**

25. TURTLE-SHAPED BOTTLE, JOSEON

This bottle is called "turtle-shaped" because of its round, flat body with a mouth. It was a portable flask for carrying water and liquor in the Joseon period. Since earthenware was typically used for everyday life, Buncheong ware and white porcelain were rare. On the upper side of the bottle, a peony design is distinctively depicted on the thick layer of white soil. The design is very bold, and the details of the white soil and the overall technique are perfect. The outside of the peony design was first scraped down and then painted with an iron-brown glaze, which makes the peony look more distinctive. **ANSWER - 1**

26. WHITE PORCELAIN WITH PLUM AND BAMBOO DESIGN IN UNDERGLAZE IRON-BROWN, JOSEON

White porcelain vessels, imbued with the spirit of purity

and moderation, were beloved by the Joseon royal court and the nobility who espoused Confucianism. The surface of this vessel served as a canvas for a painting of plum trees and bamboo. The outstanding skill of the design suggests that it was executed by a court painter. **ANSWER - 1, 4**

27. TEN-STORY STONE PAGODA, GORYEO

This 10-story stone pagoda was made of marble in 1348, during the Goryeo period. The base features a story from the Chinese classical novel Xiyuji (Journey to the West), featuring lions, lotus flowers, ascetics, and other carvings. In all, 16 scenes from Buddhist ceremonies are depicted. The style resembles that of wooden architecture, and it aptly describes the Buddhist doctrines of its time. **ANSWER - 1**

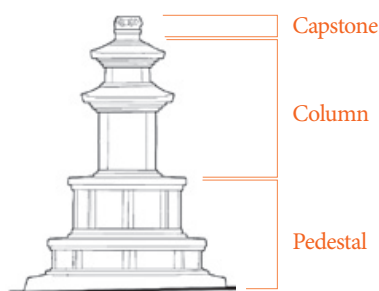
28. BOSINGAK BELL, JOSEON

This bronze bell was cast for Wongaksa Temple (the present Tapgol Park) in Seoul in the 14th year of King Sejo (1468). When the monastery closed during the sixteenth century, the bell was moved a number of times before finally being installed in the Bosingak Pavilion in the 11th year of King Gwanghaegun (1619). Each day, the bell was struck 33 times on paru (4 am) and 28 times on injeong (10 pm) to indicate the opening and closing of the castle. **ANSWER - 3**

29. THREE-STORY STONE PAGODAS, UNIFIED SILLA

These two pagodas were originally placed on the east and west sides of the courtyard of Galhangsa Temple. It was customary to build double pagodas in front of the main hall of a Buddhist monastery during the Unified Silla period. An inscription on the east pagoda states that they were erected in the 17th year of King Gyeongdeok (758).

ANSWER - REFER TO THE IMAGE



30. SANCHEONG MAECHON-RI RUIN'S DIVISION-TYPE DOLMEN, BRONZE AGE

Among the dolmen from this ruin, only the circular dolmen (#s 1, 3 and 5) have burial chambers. It is thought that the oblong dolmen without burial chambers were altars related to funeral rites. Dolmen#7 is circular, but does not have a burial chamber. In the middle, an upright stone resembling a monolith serves as a signpost. Regular dolmen consist of a large capstone placed over a burial chamber, but this ruin features the "division-type dolmen" that were popular in the southern region. With division-type dolmen, stones were placed around a burial chamber so that the whole structure formed a circular or oblong shape. These dolmen date back to the 5th and 4th centuries BC. **ANSWER - 4**

In our Museum

- We!
- Talk to artifacts and walk slowly.
- See artifacts with eyes and minds.
- Share stories of artifacts with quiet voice.
- Let cell phones rest while in the exhibition.
- Eat food in the resting area.
- Place rubbish in the bins.
- Take photos of artifacts without tripods or flash.



NATIONAL MUSEUM
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