

Containers

Looking at vessels and
containers in
Birmingham Museum and
Art Gallery

Supports QCA Art unit 5B

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

One copy of these worksheets is provided when a visit is booked. You are welcome to adapt them to suit the needs of your class and photocopy them for your pupils.

Booking a visit to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

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Illustrations

The illustrations for *Gallery 12* and *Gallery 14* were drawn by Rosie Meredith, Kings Norton Girls' School. Those for *Gallery 21*, *Gallery 22* and *Gallery 32* were drawn by Katie Houston, Wolverhampton Girls' High School.

Both Year 10 girls were on work experience at the Museum and Art Gallery in July 2006.

Containers Around The World!

Containers are sometimes called 'Vessels'. There are lots of different containers in the Museum and Art Gallery. They can be bottles, jugs, boxes or bowls.

They come in thousands of different shapes and sizes, and have thousands more different uses!

You are about to embark on a journey of discovery about containers from all around the world!

Galleries to go to -

- ❖ Gallery 12 Peruvian pot
- ❖ Gallery 14 Sir Edward Burne-Jones (1833-1898)
The Star of Bethlehem, 1887-1891

- ❖ Gallery 21 Georges Braque (1882 - 1963)
Pichet et Fruits, 1927

- Raoul Dufy (1877-1953)
Lilies c1927

- ❖ Gallery 22 Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792)
Portrait of Dr John Ash (1723 - 1798), 1788

- ❖ Galleries 24, 25, 26 & 27

- ❖ Gallery 32 Small jug (epichysis)
Made in South Italy (Apulia)
c 350-320 BC

- ❖ Gallery 34
- ❖ Gallery 36 (via Peruvian showcase on stairs)
- ❖ Gallery 37
- ❖ Finish!

Gallery 12

Look for this pot:

❖ Where was it made?

❖ What do you think it contained?

❖ What is it made from?

❖ How would you use it?



Gallery 14

- ❖ Find the picture called *The Star of Bethlehem* by Sir Edward Burne-Jones (1833-1898)
- ❖ Look for this box:



- ❖ Who is the person holding this box?

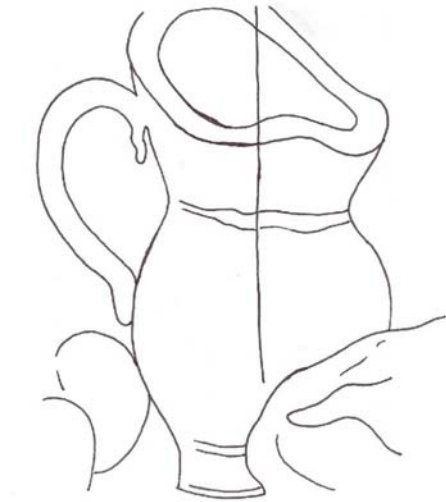
- ❖ What do you think is in it?

- ❖ What is in the containers held by the two other people?

- ❖ What story is this picture telling?

Gallery 21

- ❖ Find the picture by Georges Braque called *Pichet et Fruits*



- ❖ How would you describe the colours in this painting?
 - ❖ Braque trained in his family trade as a house-painter and decorator. Find the areas in the painting where he has used 'paint effects' like 'combing'. Copy them onto the line drawing.
- ❖ Braque's paintings are called CUBIST because he tried to simplify objects to angles and geometric shapes.
 - ❖ Is there much light and shade in the picture?

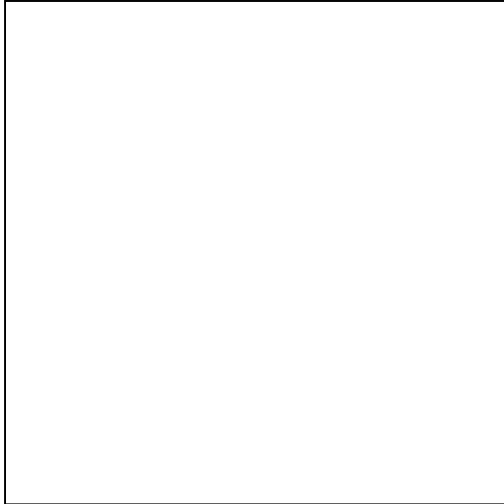
The jug and fruits look flat - why is this?

What would you do to make them look solid?

- ❖ Is the jug drawn 'properly'? Say why...
- ❖ What colour has Braque put onto the canvas first? Is this unusual? What colour do most paintings start with as a 'ground'?
- ❖ Do you like this picture?

Gallery 21

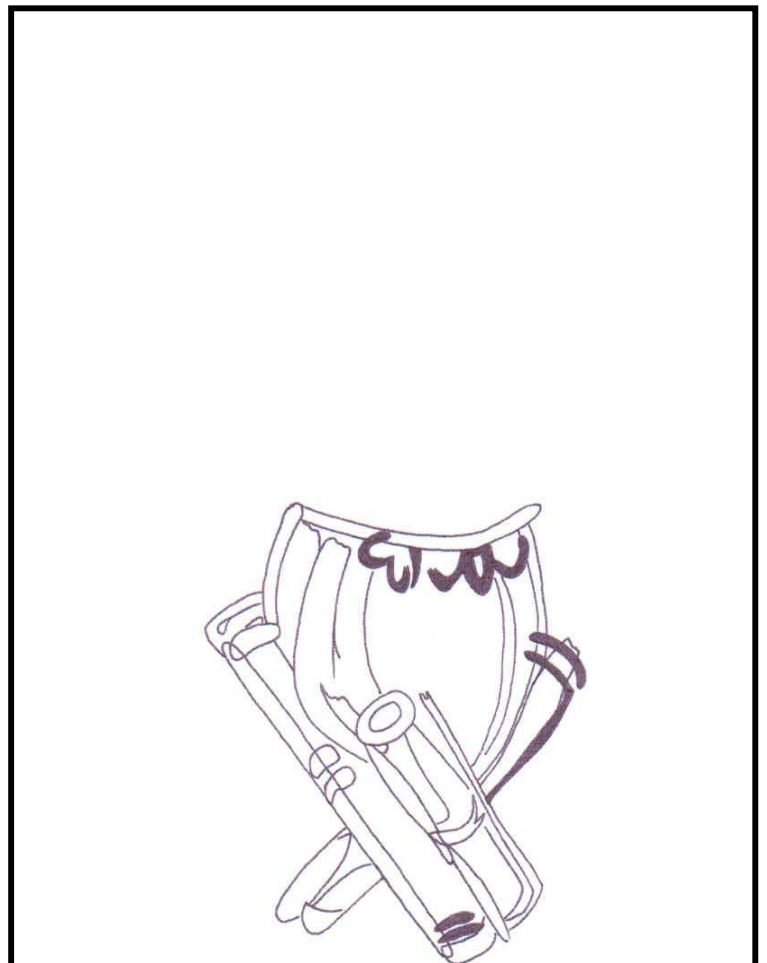
- ❖ Find the picture by Raoul Dufy called *Lilies*
- ❖ Do you think Dufy planned this picture, or painted it quickly without much thought?



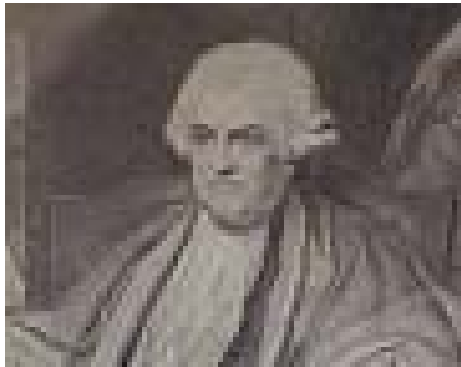
❖ Dufy tried to simplify what he saw, leaving out the details. Look carefully at the picture for a few minutes, then draw as much as you can remember without looking at it

❖ Was it painted quickly?

Complete the line drawing, looking at the painting. Compare it with your memory drawing



Gallery 22



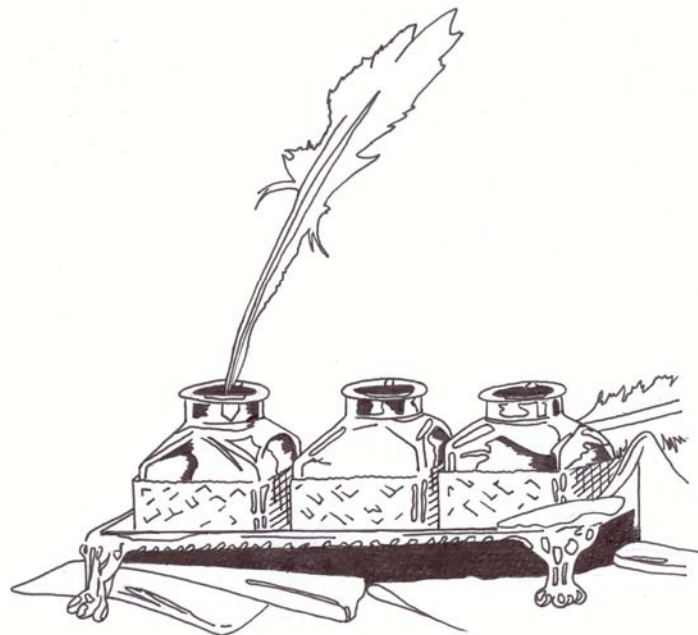
❖ Find the large portrait of Dr. John Ash, who founded the General Hospital in Birmingham

❖ Look for symbols in the picture to show what he was interested in

❖ How many inkwells are there on his desk?

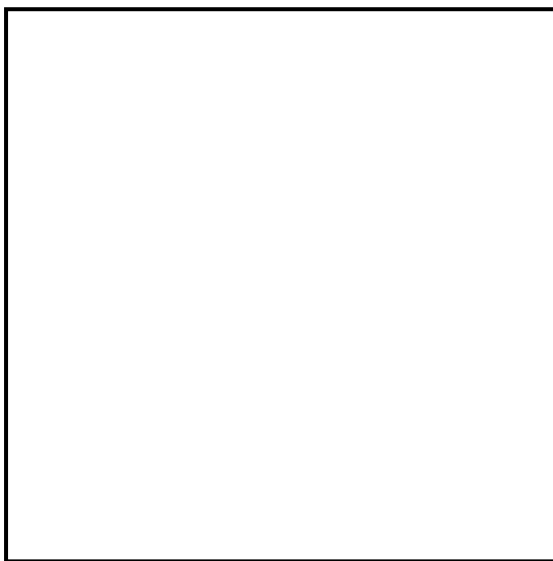
❖ What material are they made from?

❖ What did he use to write with?



Gallery 24

- ❖ Look for containers in the paintings in Gallery 24
 - ❖ How many can you see?
-



❖ Draw one container in the box opposite. Remember to include any decoration!

❖ What is its shape?

❖ What is it made of?

❖ How would you describe its texture?

❖ What is it being used for in the painting?

- ❖ Find the painting called 'The Feast of Herod'.
 - ❖ What does the vessel the lady in the red dress is holding contain?
-

- ❖ A kind of special cup that Christians use in religious ceremonies is called a:

C _ _ L _ C _ (sounds like Alice)

Gallery 25

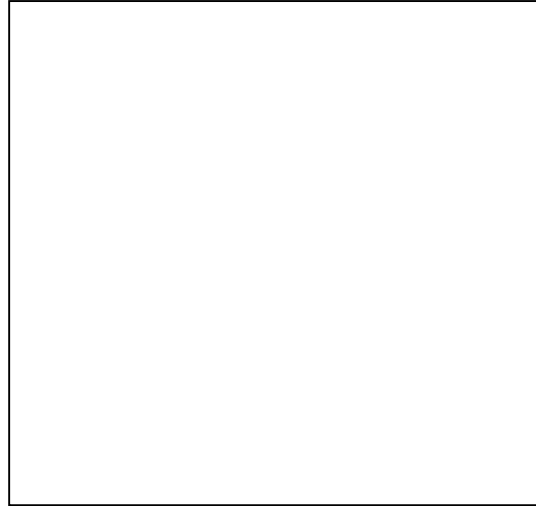
- ❖ Can you find the chalice?_
 - ❖ What material is it made of?
-

- ❖ How many chalices can you find in Gallery 27?
-

- ❖ Which countries do they come from?
-

- ❖ What are they made of?
-

- ❖ Which is the oldest?
Draw it in the box.



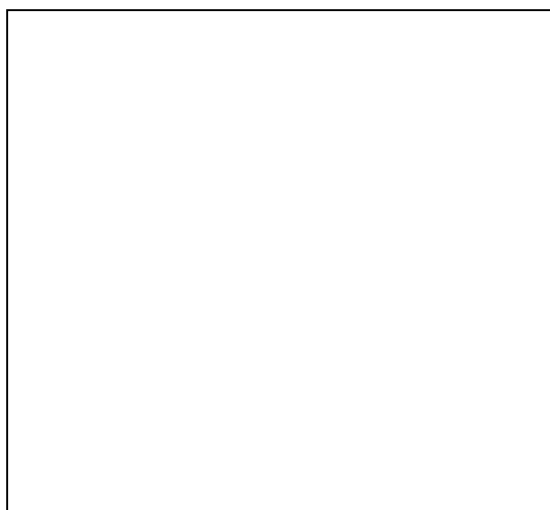
- ❖ Why do you think most of the chalices you have seen are made of expensive metals like silver, and not tin, for example?



Gallery 26

- ❖ Can you find the coconut cups in Gallery 26?
- ❖ What other organic things, for example fruit or vegetables, could you make into a container?

- ❖ Draw a picture of it in the box opposite.



- ❖ Look for the *triptych* (a painting of three parts) in Gallery 26, called 'Adoration of the Magi' (*Magi* means The Three Kings).
- ❖ What is happening in the painting?

- ❖ What do the containers in the picture seem to be made of?

- ❖ Why do you think they are made of this metal?

Gallery 32

- ❖ Now walk through to Gallery 32...
- ❖ Before you go in, can you guess what this container or vessel might have been used for? Once you have, go into the gallery and see if you are correct.



- ❖ Vessels can have lots of different uses.
- ❖ Go to the case on your left as you walk into the gallery.

❖ In the case called 'The Romans', next to the tombstones, can you see the Urn?

❖ What was it used for?

❖ What shape is it?

Now move to the next case along on the right.

❖ Can you find the vase with a face?

❖ What colour is it?

If you go to the four feely pots in the middle of the gallery, you can find out more and feel a copy of a real Roman face pot.

Gallery 35

Make your way across to Gallery 35. On the way, stop and look at the amazing Ancient Peruvian showcase on the landing.

❖ Can you find the Whistling Owl Jar?

❖ Why was the owl important to the ancient Peruvians?

❖ Which other animals can you see on the jars? You should be able to find 10 different kinds!

Gallery 34

Now you are going to travel to Ancient Egypt!
Go upstairs to Gallery 34.

- ❖ Look in case 6. What are most of the pieces made of?
-

- ❖ Why is Number 4 green?
-

Now go to case 5.

- ❖ Can you find the Canopic Jars?

If you dare, read the label on the right to find out what they are used for!

Gallery 36

Move towards Gallery 36.

- ❖ Look around for the Recycled Works case.

Guess what the two brightly coloured baskets are made of.

- ❖ Can you find the model water pot in the same case?
What is made of?

Draw its shape here.



Gallery 37

Go through the door at the far end, into Gallery 37.

❖ Look for Number 139 in the cases.
What is it?

Look in the information book on the table opposite to find out why this can is special!

If you haven't already, don't forget to visit the Metal Gallery (Gallery 7), where you can find out much more about the different metals and what they are used for.

You could also visit the Industrial Gallery (Gallery 5) to see plenty more vessels or containers!

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