



The Gemellion with a Lion



Armorial gemellion

France, Limoges, 13th century, enameled and gilt copper, Louvre Abu Dhabi

Gemellion comes from the Latin word *gemellus*, meaning twin. They are pairs of basins that were used for washing hands. Look closely at the centre of the gemellion; it is decorated with a coat of arms: a red lion on a white shield. The lion appears standing on its back leg.

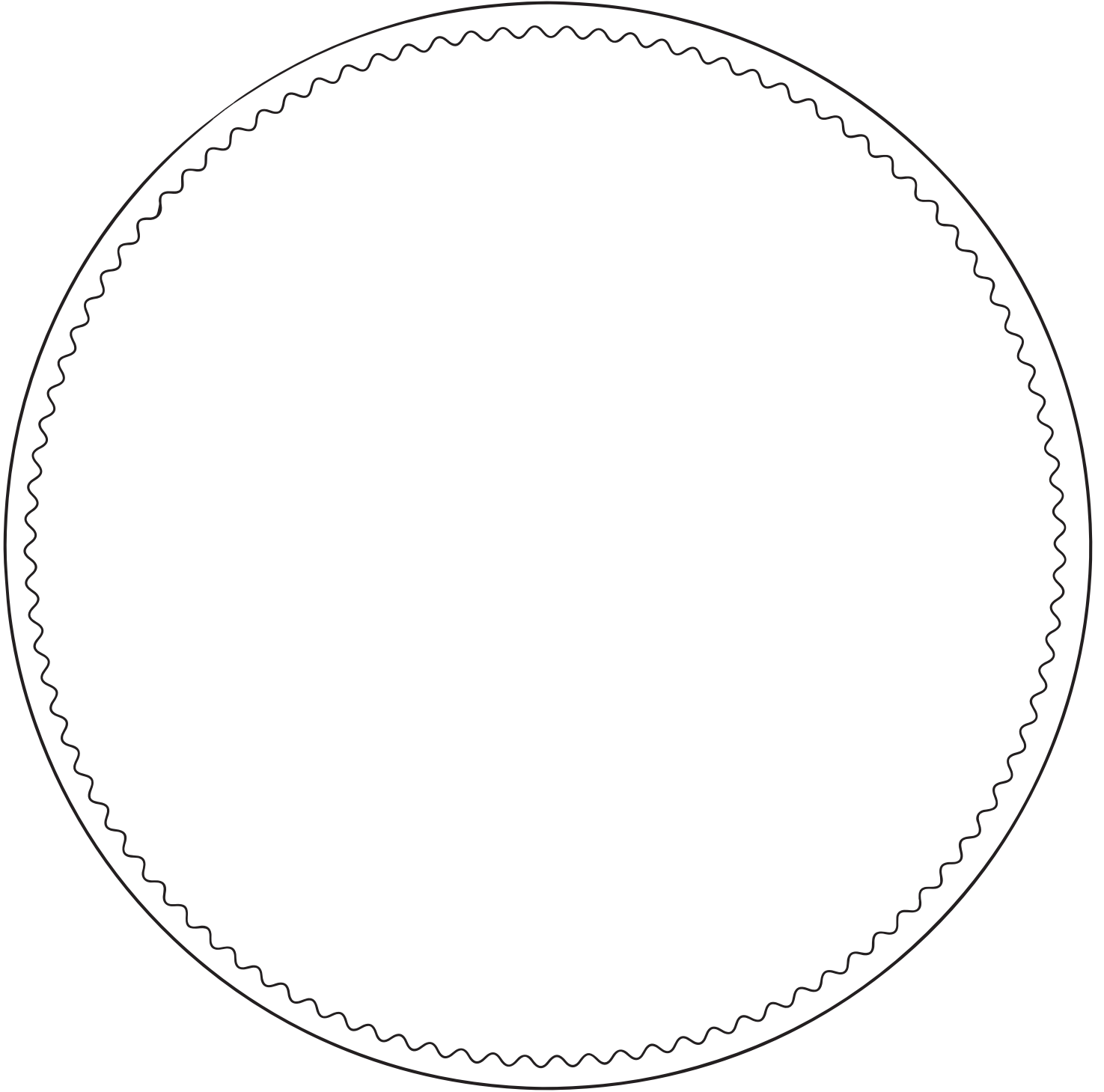
- Does it look real? Unreal? Maybe frightening?
- What attributes does the lion represent to you?



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Decorate your Family's Gemellion!

Decorate this gemellion with your family's coat of arms.



Did You Know?

The **Coat of Arms** is used to identify a lord and his family. This lion shield is a coat of arms for a powerful family as well.

Why do you think they used a lion?



The Miniature with a Camel



Bactrian camel and keeper

Muhammad Husayn-al-Katib, Iran, around 1560-1570, watercolour with gold on paper, Louvre Abu Dhabi

The Bactrian camel is the largest type of camels with two humps on its backs. In this miniature painting, a Bactrian camel is chained to show that it has been tamed by a caravan driver. Domestication of the camel was a very important step for mankind to start transporting people and goods across the desert.

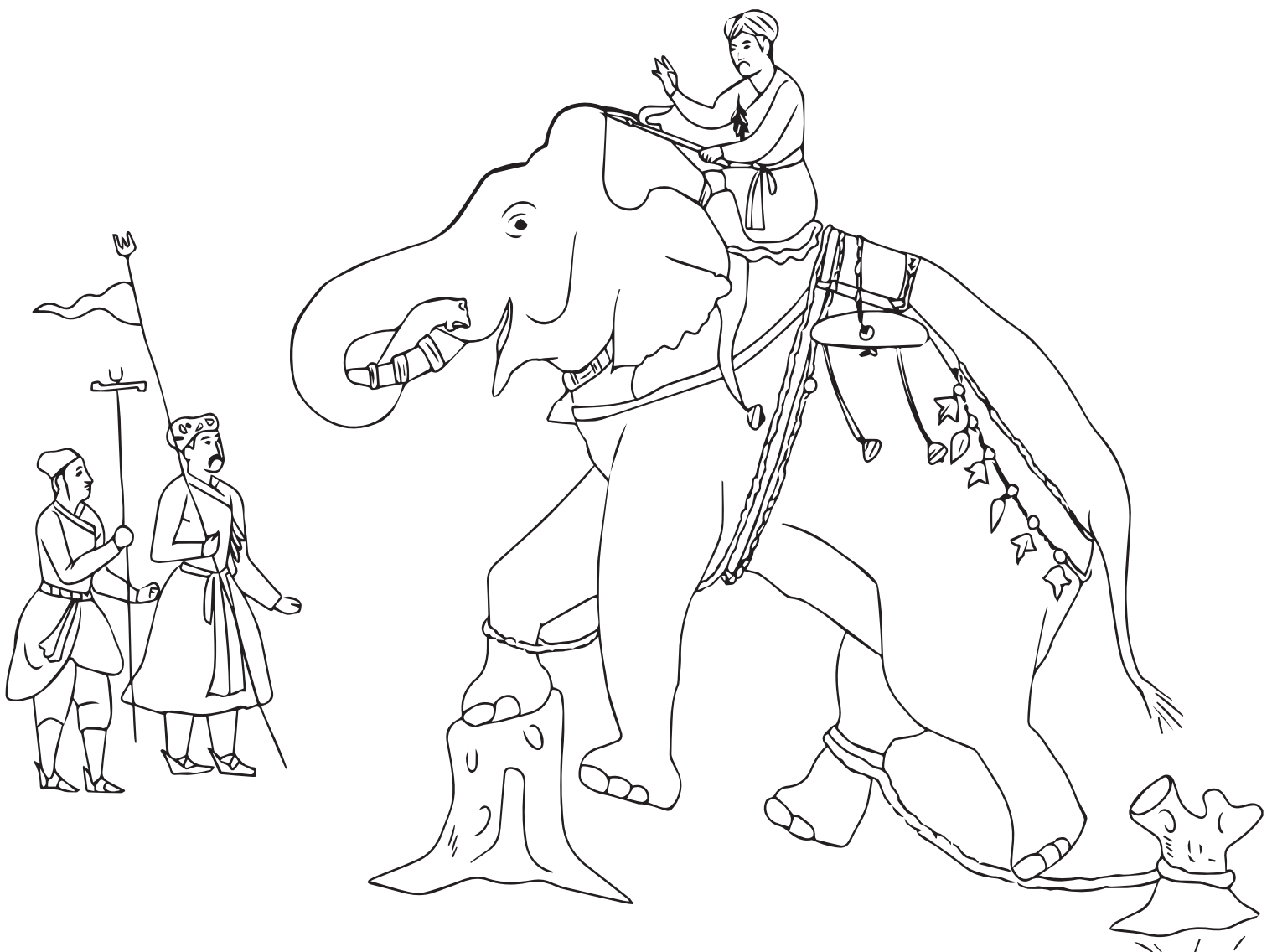
- **Why do you think camels were used for travel and transport?**
- **How is this camel different from the camels you have seen before?**



Illuminate your Miniature!

Miniatures are very colourful works.
This one needs more colour, don't you think?

Use your bright and beautiful colours to complete this miniature.



Did You Know?

Bactrian camels have thick fleece compared to other camels.

Why do you think that is?



The Rooster from the Kingdom Of Benin



Rooster

Nigeria, 18th century, Bronze, Louvre Abu Dhabi

In the Kingdom of Benin (**Nigeria** today) which was ruled by the **Oba**, roosters had a great cultural importance.

Bronze roosters like this one were used to pay tribute to the King's mother, the **lyoba**, who is also known as Queen Mother of Benin.

A hole between the bird's feet was used to pay offerings like **kola** nuts by placing it on alters of the ancestors as well.

The eldest wife of the king was also called the **Eson**, meaning the rooster who sings the loudest! She was responsible for the king's other wives and settling their arguments.



Test your Vocabulary!

Fill in this crossword using the words you learned during your trip to the Kingdom of Benin. Don't forget to read all the information again with your family.

												1			2	
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Horizontal

3. Nuts placed between the rooster's feet as offerings.
5. The country in which the Kingdom of Benin was located.
6. Eldest wife of the King.

Vertical

1. Nickname given to the Queen Mother of Benin.
2. The King
4. Material used in making the rooster.



Did You Know?

Bronze objects like this sculpture were the most excellent works of art in the Oba's court.

Can you think of other valuable materials?



The Hippopotamus of Egypt



Hippopotamus

Egypt, around 1850 BCE, Faïence, Louvre Abu Dhabi

Hippopotamuses used to live in the Nile river in Egypt.
This blue one was made in the times of the pharaohs.

They are one of the most dangerous animals in Africa. They can be very destructive, turn over boats and eat crops in the fields.

This bright blue hippopotamus is covered with black motifs as if it were covered with river plants. According to Egyptian myths, the lotus flower painted on its back was the origin of life on Earth.

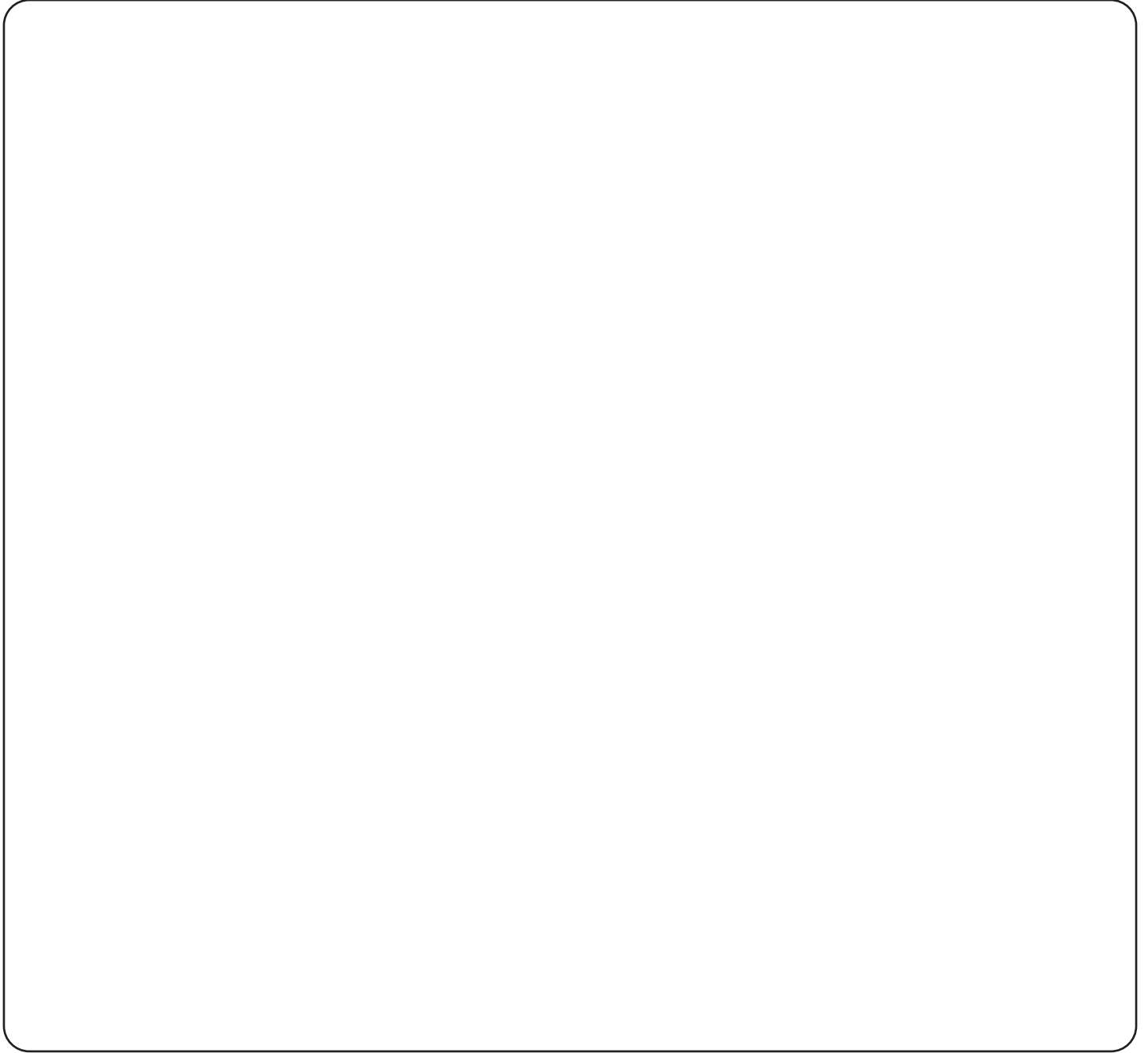
- **Take a closer look at the motifs used to decorate its body. Can you spot the plants?**



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An Animal and its Natural Environment

Draw your favourite animal and decorate it with elements from its natural environment. Here is an example: a tiger lives in the forest. You may draw it in green, covered with vegetation!



Did You Know?

Models of hippopotamuses were placed in the tombs of important people in Ancient Egypt to ensure their rebirth in the afterlife.

These animals also represented rebirth.





The Plate with Chimeras



Plate with two chimeras

William De Morgan, England, around 1890-1900, clay ceramic, Louvre Abu Dhabi

The word "*chimera*" means an imaginary hybrid animal.

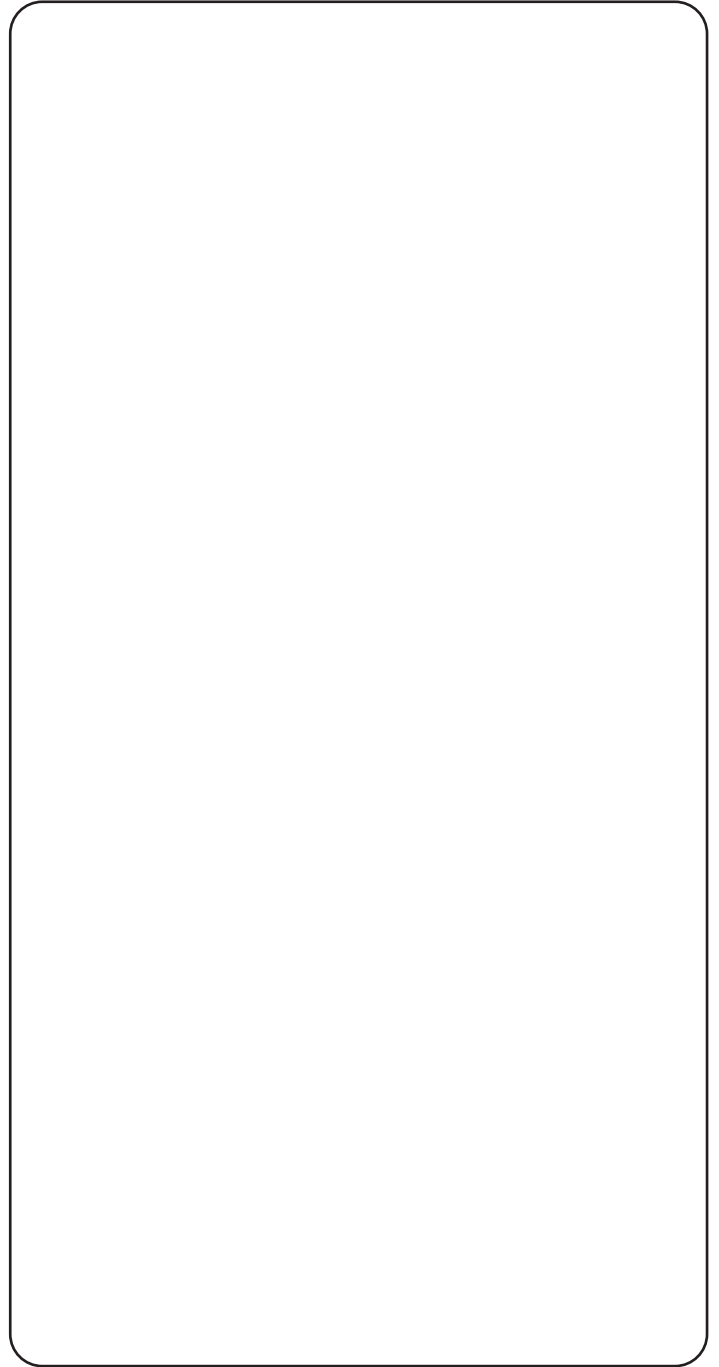
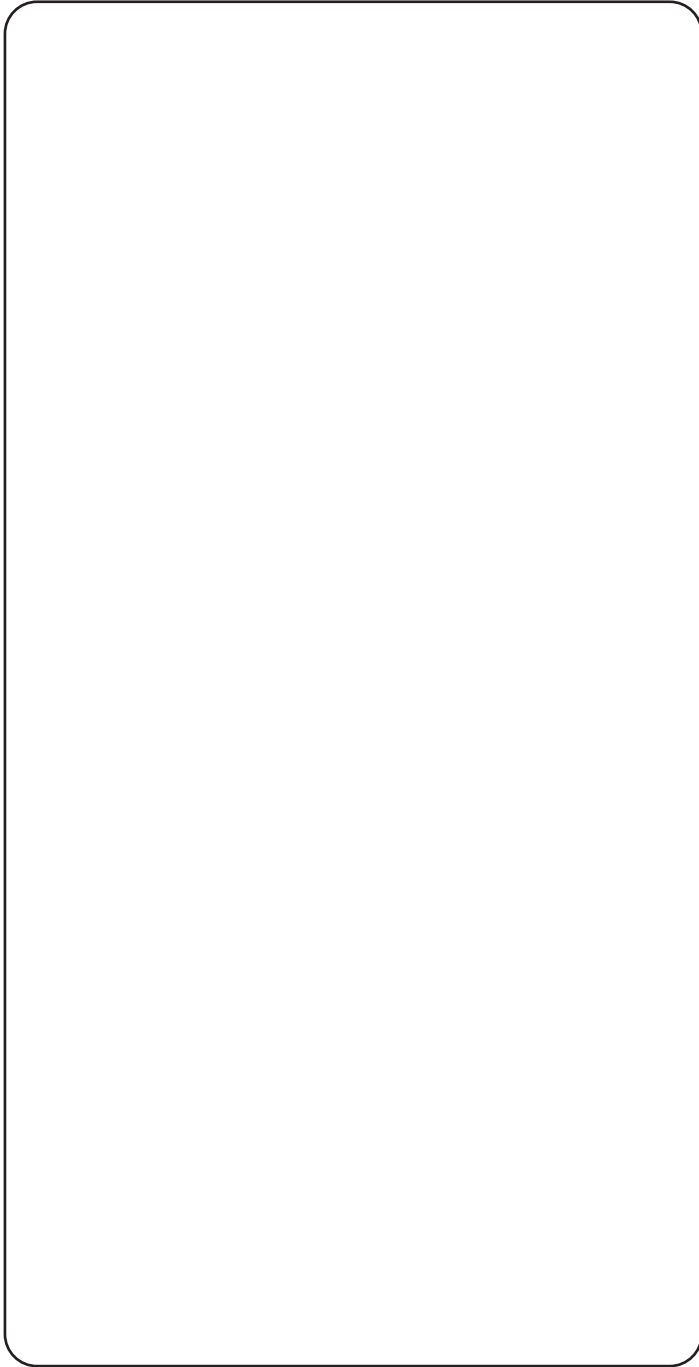
The imaginary animal shown on this plate is called a griffin: part lion and part eagle. In old Greek myths, griffins used to guard gold mines on the other side of the earth.

- **Take a look at the imaginary animals on this plate. What are these griffins doing?**
- **What covers their bodies?**
- **Knowing the special powers of lions and eagles, can you think of other powers the griffin may have?**



Who's Who?

Look back at the chimera and the different animals in it.
Draw these animals separately!



Did You Know?

In Greek mythology, the chimera was usually formed by the body of a lion and a goat and the tail of a snake! **Picture that!**