

This guide contains  
fun activities  
for exploring  
and learning about  
the objects  
that are exhibited  
in the Museo Larco.  
There are also some  
activities to do  
at home.

Enjoy this

# family guide

and take it as a souvenir  
of your visit to the

## MUSEO LARCO

treasures from ancient Peru



Introductory  
Room

# This sculpture has spots!

Pacopampa feline  
Formative Epoch (1200 BC - 1 AD)  
ML301346

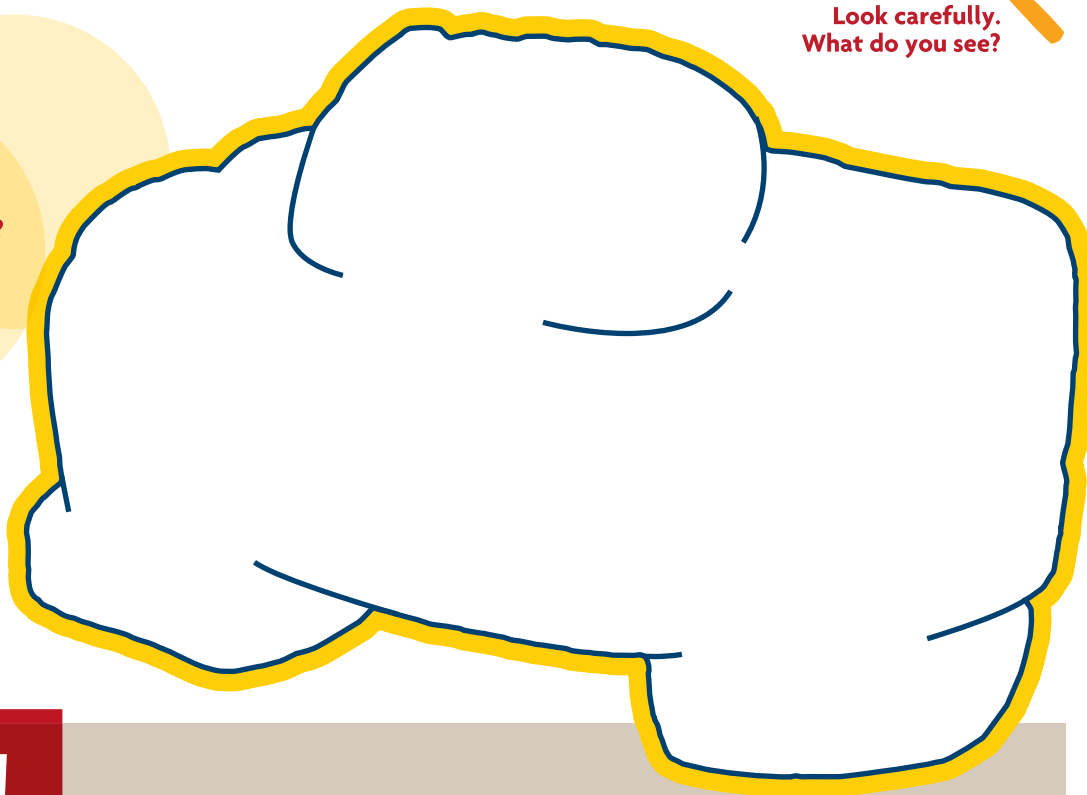
This big stone sculpture  
represents a jaguar.



**Look carefully.  
What do you see?**

**How many spots  
are you able to find?**

Draw them  
on this jaguar's  
silhouette.



**Fun  
fact !**

*Jaguars live in humid regions, with large rivers, like the Amazonian basin. That is why the circles on the sculpture represent not only the jaguar's spots but water symbols.*

# Is this a person or an animal?

Which side of the head presents a larger amount of human traits?

Which are the human traits that you can identify?

Why would the ancient Peruvians create a half-human / half-animal figure?

Which are the traits that you can identify?



Cupisnique Anthropomorphic Head  
Formative Epoch (1200 BC - 1 BC)  
ML040218

ANIMAL TRAITS	HUMAN TRAITS

## Fun fact !

Human images with animal traits are common in the art of ancient Peru.

Ancient Peruvians believed that incorporating some animal traits like the feline's fangs and claws, or the wings and peaks of birds, would make them more powerful.

showcase

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# These heads want to tell us something!

Ancient Peruvians made real portraits!  
Humans and mythological beings were represented.

**Who do you think these portrait heads represent?**

I AM...



Mochica  
Florescent Epoch (1 AD – 800 AD)  
ML003022

I AM...



Mochica  
Florescent Epoch (1 AD – 800 AD)  
ML018883

Mochica  
Florescent Epoch (1 AD – 800 AD)  
ML012869



I AM...

**Fun fact !**

Observe the different ornaments, like the earrings and the headdresses. Look for the man who wears big circle earrings: he is probably a priest or a nobleman, definitely a person with a high status in his society. Now look at the personage with fangs on the mouth. Is this a human, or a mythological being?

Now, can you identify the man whose hair is visible? He represents a captive man ready for sacrifice.

# What is this?

Take a moment to observe this object thoroughly

Can you identify its function?

Why did the Nasca make such an elaborate object?

Where was it possibly used?



Nasca Drum  
Apogee Epoch (1 AD - 800 AD)  
ML013683

**Play with your family.  
Who can find...?**

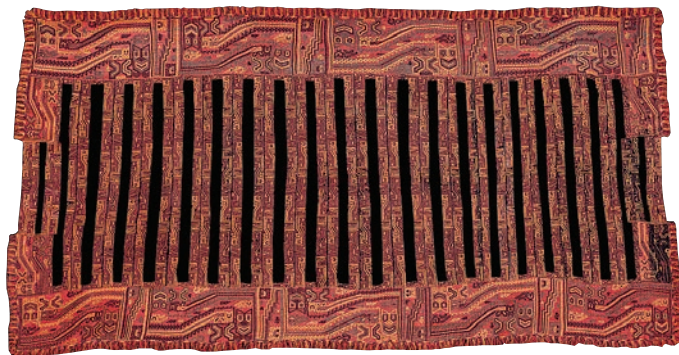
- 2 stars
- 2 human faces
- 3 feline heads
- 6 snakes
- 1 plant or fruit
- 2 legs
- 1 feather necklace

**Fun  
fact !**

*This object has been placed upside-down!  
Look again, and try to think about how it was used.*

*One clue: if you were a Nasca, you would  
have danced following its rhythm!*

# A mantle with the Bird-Feline-Snake!



Paracas Mantle  
Formative Epoch (1200 BC - 1 BC)  
ML600068

The Paracas mantle is full of images and colors. But a more thorough observation shows that there is only one design that is repeated several times in the mantle.

The Paracas artists made subtle variations in each repetition, like exchanging colors.

**Which colors were used in this mantle?**

There are 4 colors, find them!

**Try to identify the following images in the Paracas mantle.**



Hummingbird



Feline face



Snake body



Central image

**Fun ! fact ◊**

*This fine mantle was woven by the Paracas artists not for its use in this world, but to cover the body of their dead. The Paracas mantles carry sacred messages for the afterlife.*

showcase

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# Look for the treasures of ancient Peru!

Explore the Sacrifice Ceremony Hall, and observe the scenes that were painted and modeled on the ceramic vessels, portraying the ritual life of ancient Peru.



Mochica  
Florescent Epoch (1 - 800 AD)  
ML010847

**What happens in the scene painted on this ceramic bottle?**

**For a better understanding of it, observe the scene on the wall.**

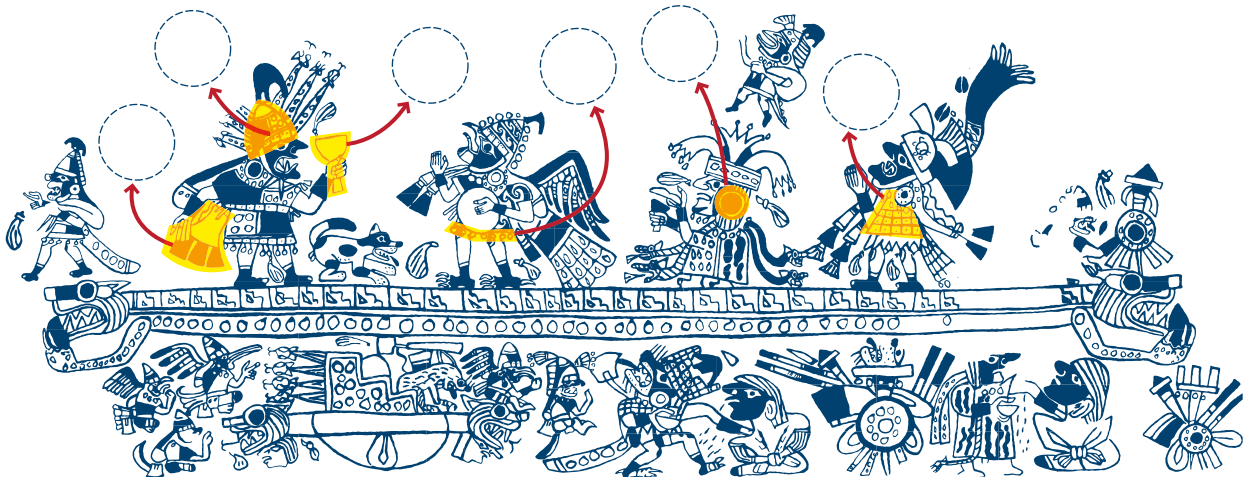
Each family member should choose a personage of the scene, and play its role.

Then ask another person to take a picture of your family acting the scene.

Share the picture using #MuseoLarco.

In this scene you can see personages that are adorned with metal shirts, ear and nose ornaments and headdresses. They hold cups and bowls in their hands.

**Next to the arrows, write the number of the museum showcase in which you find the highlighted object!**



We suggest you to look in the Gold and Jewelry Galleries, for the following showcases: 88 – 95 – 107 – 110 – 132 – 137 – 138 – 151

**Fun  
fact !**

*Gold and silver were very important for ancient Peruvian cultures, but not for their economic value. They represented the sun and the moon, their mayor gods. Rulers, priests and priestesses were adorned with these noble metals, since they were sacred and divine.*



showcase

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# Become a Chimu Emperor!

Observe the gold attire made by the Chimu goldsmiths.

Who do you think wore this attire?  
Why was it made in gold?

What was this attire used for?

Where do you think this attire was found?



Paste  
your picture  
here!



Chimu  
Imperial Epoch (1300 - 1532 AD)  
ML100118, ML100856-ML100861

**Fun !**  
**fact !**

*Gold in ancient Peru was important not because of its economic value, but because it symbolized the sun and the world of the gods. Rulers, priests and priestesses dressed in gold to communicate their sacred identity.*