

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

FAMILY  
GUIDE

# FIERCE OR FANCY?

DISCOVER THE ART OF

# ARMS & ARMOR



# Weapon or work of art, or both? For battle or just for show? For a soldier or a king?

Let's find out in the arms and armor galleries at the Met. Follow the letters on the map to find the works of art. Discover fun facts and use your imagination. After you've explored, design armor inspired by your favorites!

**Keep in mind:** sometimes we have to move works of art or even close galleries to prepare for exhibitions. When in doubt, ask a guard for help!



## **A** Fit for a King • Gallery 374

**Did You Know?** Henry II, King of France, wore this armor nearly 500 years ago for parades and special occasions.

**Imagine:** Look closely at this majestic armor. Follow the curving lines of the leafy branches with your eyes, wherever they lead you. Did you get lost in the forest? Look around the galleries and find other suits of armor that feature plants, vines, or animals.

*Armor of Henry II of France, about 1555; French; steel, embossed, blued, silvered, and gilt; Harris Brisbane Dick Fund, 1939 (39.121a-n)*

## **B** Double Trouble • Gallery 375

**Did You Know?** These elaborate pistols were made as works of art, even though they can be used as weapons. If they were dueling pistols, used to settle quarrels, they would be plain so as not to distract the shooters.

**Imagine:** Move up close and notice the ends of the pistols. Why would a head with wild hair grimace back at the shooter? Look at the other pairs of pistols in this gallery and discover the designs at the end of each pistol.

*Pair of Flintlock Pistols, 1800–1801; Samuel Brunn (English, recorded 1795–1820); silversmith: attributed to Michael Barnett (English, 1758–about 1823); English; steel, walnut, silver, gold; Purchase, Harris Brisbane Dick Fund and Gift of George D. Pratt, by exchange, 1992 (1992.330.1, .2)*



## **C** Fit for a Prince • Gallery 376

**Did You Know?** As small as a young child, this fancy armor belonged to Infante Luis, heir to the Spanish throne 300 years ago. He was only 5 years old when he wore it!

**Imagine:** Look at the decorations and find a tower. It stands for the Spanish region of Castile (think of “castle”). Now find a beast. It is a symbol for the area called León (“lion” in Spanish). What would you put on your armor to represent your country or family heritage?

*Armor of Infante Luis, Prince of Asturias, dated 1712; French; steel, blued and gilt; gilt brass; silk; cotton; metallic yarn; paper; Purchase, Armand Hammer, Occidental Petroleum Corporation Gift, 1989 (1989.3)*

## **E** Man of Steel • Gallery 371

**Did You Know?** By George, the pattern covers every part! This full armor belonged to George Clifford, an English knight and a favorite of Queen Elizabeth I. Clifford wore this 60-pound armor for tournaments. He honored the queen by jousting, a sport played between two horsemen with lances.

**Imagine:** His armor also paid tribute to the Queen. Can you find the two “Es” on the knees? Can you find them anywhere else? If you were to honor someone while playing sports, who would that be? How would you represent them on your outfit?

*Armor of George Clifford, Third Earl of Cumberland, about 1586; made under the direction of Jacob Halder (English, master armorer at royal workshops at Greenwich, documented in England 1558–1608); English; steel, etched, blued, and gilt; Munsey Fund, 1932 (32.130.6)*

### 1ST FLOOR ARMS & ARMOR GALLERIES



## **D** Well Handled • Gallery 372

**Did You Know?** Stand proud like the golden woman atop this sword. She stands for victory. See how she forms the handle. An American soldier received this sword as a gift more than a century ago.

**Imagine:** Look at the different swords nearby. What other types of decoration do you see on their handles? Which would feel most comfortable in your hand? Which sword should the figure on the back of this guide have? Draw your favorite.

*Sword presented to Capt. Richard French, 1850; Ames Manufacturing Company, Chicopee, Mass.; American; gilt brass, steel; Purchase, Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Gift, 2012 (2012.105a, b)*

## **F** Not Your Average T-Shirt • Gallery 379

**Did You Know?** Though it has the shape of a regular T-shirt, at 23 pounds this Indian armor actually weighs more than a suitcase full of T-shirts! It is made of mail, small metal rings that link together. Two striking golden plates protect the chest. Prayers asking for protection cover their surfaces.

**Imagine:** Look for another shirt made of mail and decorated with beautiful writing. How are these two shirts different? What would you write on a shirt meant to protect you?

*Shirt of mail and plate, 1632/33; India and Iran; iron, steel, gold, leather; Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Gift, 2008 (2008.245)*





## G Metal in Motion • Gallery 379

**Did You Know?** Unlike the shirts nearby made mostly of small and large metal rings that are linked together, this full armor also includes many metal plates. The plates added strength and protection and kept the armor flexible.

**Imagine:** An Indian warrior wearing this helmet and leg guards rides his horse into battle. What might you hear? A chorus of clinks or a clankety clank? What do you think the warriors would shout as they charged into battle? What kinds of sounds would their horses make?

*Armor, late 18th–early 19th century; Indian, Sind (now Pakistan); steel, brass; Bequest of George C. Stone, 1935 (36.25.11a–g)*

## H Super Samurai • Gallery 377

**Did You Know?** Fear the fierce dragon! A mighty Japanese warlord owned this armor. He was powerful, overseeing many samurai warriors. Many, many different parts make up this bold armor, including a dragon helmet. Can you spot the second dragon?

**Imagine:** Look for helmets near you and behind you. Which other animals and fantastic creatures decorate these helmets? What do you think they mean?

*Armor of the gusoku type, Edo period, Japanese; 16th and 18th century; helmet bowl signed Saotome Iyētada? (Japanese, Edo period); armorer: breastplate inscribed inside, Myochin Munesuke (Japanese, 1688–1735); lacquered iron, mail, silk, copper-gilt; Gift of Bashford Dean, 1914 (14.100.172; 14.100.527–.528)*

## I Iron and Silk • Gallery 377

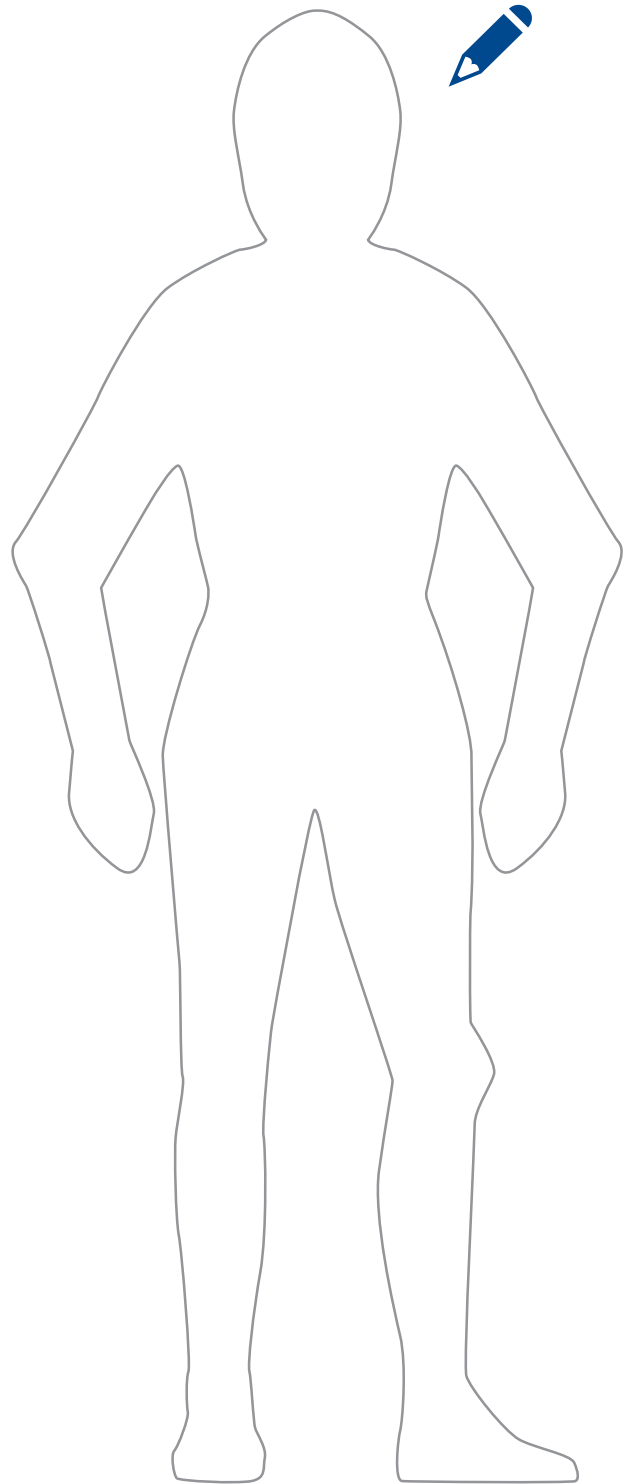
**Did You Know?** This dazzling warrior wears a fierce mask and iron armor covered with fancy silk lacing. The solid metal breastplate provided extra protection. The orange, green, and white colors would help him stand out in a crowd!

**Imagine:** What other parts of this armor are still used today in sports or other activities? What colors would you use for your emblem?

*Bamen Tomotsugu (Japanese, active 18th century), armor of the gusoku type, 18th century; lacquered iron, shakudō, silver, silk, horse hair, ivory; Gift of Etsuko O. Morris and John H. Morris, Jr. in memory of Dr. Frederick M. Pedersen, 2001 (2001.642)*

## Draw It!

Design your own complete armor inspired by the ones you saw in the galleries!



Education  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
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[www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org)

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*Cover:* Folio from an Album of Tournaments and Parades in Nuremberg (detail), late 16th–mid-17th century; German, Nuremberg; pen and ink, watercolor, gold and silver washes; paper bound in gold-tooled leather; Rogers Fund, 1922 (22.229)

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