

Guide for your tour of the Weltmuseum Wien in plain English

This guide contains

- Information about the museum's permanent exhibition
- Descriptions of 13 objects in the permanent exhibition

The permanent exhibition is on the floor: Mezzanin

Information about the guide

How is the guide written?

In the museum, you might notice some difficult words.
We have written these **words** in bold.

Explanations of these **words**
are shown in a box.

Important information about the guide:

This guide is for you to read in the museum.
Please put it back
before you leave the museum.
Or you can give it back to a member of staff.

The guide is also available online.
To access the guide online,
you will need a mobile phone with an internet connection
and this QR code:



You can scan the QR code
with an app or the camera on your phone.
This will take you to our website
and you can view this guide on your phone.

Welcome to Weltmuseum Wien!

Thank you for visiting us.

The Weltmuseum Wien is a place for everyone.

Everyone is welcome

to take a look at the **objects** in the museum

and learn about the fascinating stories behind them.

Objects are things.

They are on display in the museum.

This guide is written in plain English.

We use short sentences and explain any foreign words.

- Do you sometimes find museum information hard to understand?
- Are you learning English?
- Do you have learning difficulties?
- Would you like to find out more about the objects you will see?

Please take this guide with you

as you go round the museum.

Please put it back again

before you leave.

This guide contains:

- a floor plan of the rooms
- information about the Weltmuseum Wien
- the story of each room in the museum's **permanent exhibition**
- Descriptions of one object in each room

The **permanent exhibition** is on the mezzanine floor.

Here you can discover different stories about our world.

Enjoy your visit to the Weltmuseum Wien!

Where can I find information in the guide?

- To find information about the history of the Weltmuseum Wien,
go to page 8
- To start your tour of the museum, go to page 11
- Are you interested in a specific room or a particular object?
A floor plan with all rooms and objects can be found on..... page 12
- To find a specific room or object, use the list below:

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The Weltmuseum Wien

What is the Weltmuseum Wien?

The Weltmuseum Wien is a museum about people.

In the Weltmuseum Wien, we can find out more about people from other countries.

How did these people live in the past? How do they live now?

What is important to them in life?

This helps us to understand different kinds of people better and respect them more.

This includes people who live in other countries.

It also includes people

in our own community who come from other countries.

The Weltmuseum Wien contains objects from all over the world.

These objects were made by

people from many different countries.

They have also been used by these people.

How did the objects end up in the Weltmuseum Wien?

Museums often start with

someone collecting objects that interest them,

or objects that are particularly valuable.

This is how the Weltmuseum Wien was created.

A long time ago, there was a prince in Austria called Ferdinand of Tyrol.

Ferdinand collected lots of objects.

Some of these objects came from far-off countries.

He liked showing his collection to his guests.

Later on, the Emperor of Austria acquired the collection.
He brought it from Tyrol to Vienna.
The emperor also collected objects from all over the world.
So did other emperors and princes after him.
And so did lots of other people.
As a result, the collection grew and grew.

The collectors bought the objects from people
in other countries,
or exchanged them for something else.
The collectors also received some objects as gifts.
Some objects were stolen
and then sold to the museum.

The people who run the Weltmuseum Wien
have been thinking a lot about what to do with these stolen objects.
They are talking to other museums
and to people from the countries where the objects come from.
Together, they would like to find a good solution to this problem.

According to Austrian law,
all of the objects belong to Austria.
This means that the museum can't decide
what to do with these things on its own.

How was the Weltmuseum Wien established?

The Austrian Emperor Franz-Joseph had buildings specially built for his collections. Now, these buildings are home to Vienna's Art History Museum and Natural History Museum.

Many objects in the Weltmuseum Wien used to be in the Natural History Museum. Later, they were moved to a part of the Austrian Imperial Palace called the Neue Hofburg.

That is the building where the museum was set up.

In 1928, it was renamed the Museum of Ethnology.

Ethnology is the study of different cultures.

In 2013, it changed its name again to the Weltmuseum Wien.

Weltmuseum is "World Museum" in English.

What does the Weltmuseum Wien do with the objects?

The museum stores the objects and looks after them.

Many of the objects are very old and fragile.

Experts study the objects

and write about what they have found out.

This means we can learn more about them too.

For example, we can find out what they are made of, or what they are used for.

The museum also collects new objects.

For example, it buys pictures

produced by people today.

This is important. It means we can see

what artists are painting all over the world.

Together, these objects are called a collection,

because they have all been collected in some way.

Your tour of the permanent exhibition:

The permanent exhibition covers 14 rooms.

Each room has its own story.

The rooms tell different stories about our world.

The permanent exhibition

The rooms in the permanent exhibition are arranged around the hall of columns.

This guide starts in room 12.

This room is called Stories from Mesoamerica.

Go to the next room on the right.

The guide contains information about each room.

Each room has its own room number.

This number is always shown above the door to the next room.

The room numbers are also shown in this guide.



There are more than 100 objects in each room.

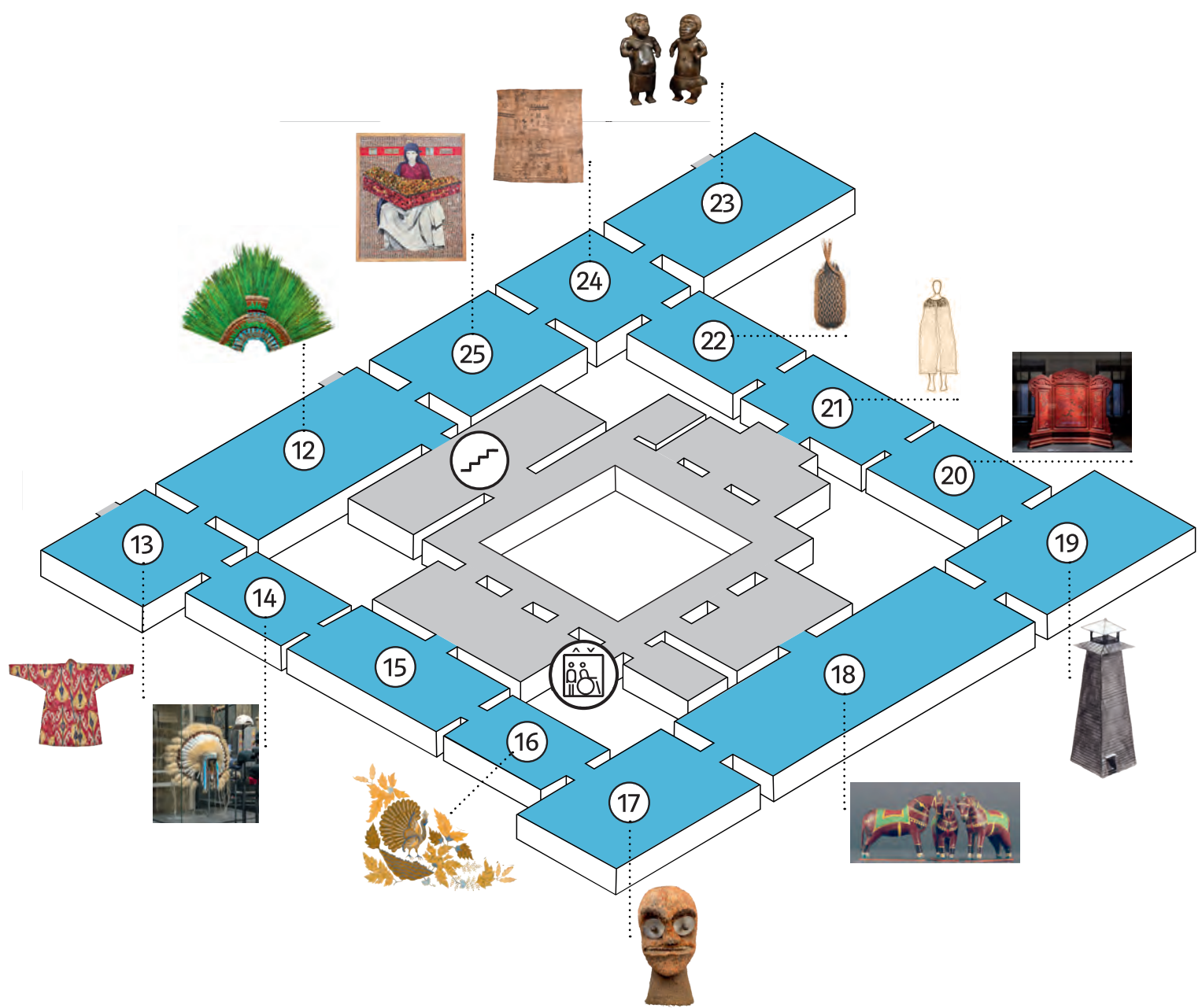
Each object has its own story.

We have picked one object from each room
and told its story in this guide.

Next to the story is a photo
to help you find the object in the room.

Floor plan

This plan shows the rooms we have written about in this guide.



- ⑫ Room 12: Stories from Mesoamerica
- ⑫ Room 25: A Village in the Mountains
- ⑫ Room 24: Culture War in Vienna
- ⑫ Room 23: Benin and Ethiopia: Art, Power, Resilience
- ⑫ Room 22: An Austrian Mosaic of Brazil
- ⑫ Room 21: In the Shadow of Colonialism
- ⑫ Room 20: A New Perception – View on China
- ⑫ Room 19: 1873 – Japan comes to Europe
- ⑫ Room 18: Collecting Craze. I Suffer from Museomania!
- ⑫ Room 17: South Seas: Encounters with Paradise Lost
- ⑫ Room 16: Fascinated by Indonesia
- ⑫ Room 14: Into a New World
- ⑫ Room 13: At the Threshold of the Orient

The permanent exhibition in plain English



Room 12 Stories from Mesoamerica

This room contains lots of different objects from Mesoamerica.

What is Mesoamerica?

Mesoamerica is a big region in America
that is now made up of several countries.
These include Mexico and Guatemala.

In the past, there have been many different cultures in Mesoamerica.
The most famous of these are the Aztec and Mayan cultures.
The Aztec and Mayan people lived in Mesoamerica a long time ago.
They built pyramids.
They also invented many things,
including their own calendar and their own way of writing.

Then people from Europe came to America
and fought the Aztecs and the Mayans.
In the end the Europeans won and
Mesoamerica became part of Spain.

What objects can you see in this room?

This room contains objects from three different periods in history.

1 Objects from the pre-Columbian period

Pre-Columbian means before Christopher Columbus.

Christopher Columbus was a sailor.

He sailed from Spain to America

more than 500 years ago.

Later on, more people from Europe went to America too.

This marked the end of the pre-Columbian period.

2 Objects from the colonial period

The colonial period is the time when Spain ruled America.

It is the time when Mesoamerica became a **colony** of Spain.

The objects from the colonial period include

a famous feather headdress and other objects made of feathers.

A colony is

when one country takes over regions in another country.

The conquered regions are called a colony.

Usually, colonies were in another part of the world.

The conquering countries controlled their colonies
and often treated the people there badly.

3 Objects from the modern period

These objects are still used by people today.

They are very popular in the countries in Mesoamerica,
such as Mexico.

Similar objects probably already existed in the time of the Aztecs and Mayans.

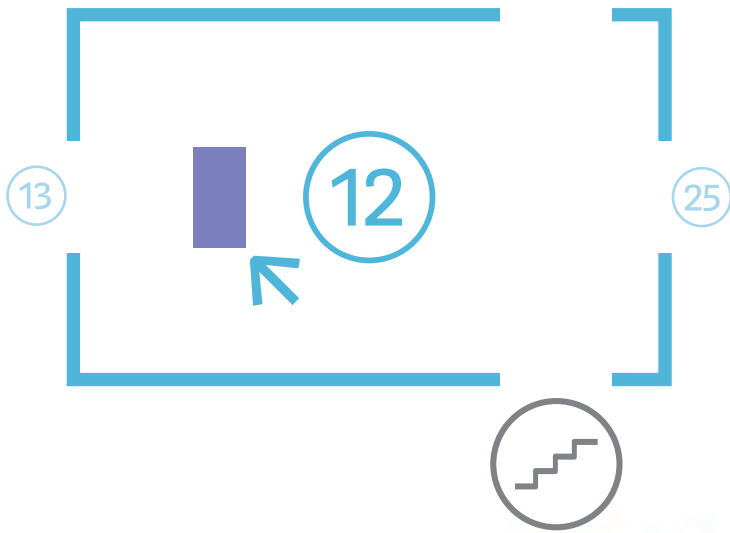
However, they have changed

as new ideas have been brought in from Spain.

For example, there are small figures and skulls

which are used to celebrate the Day of the Dead,
especially in Mexico.

The feather headdress from Mexico



This feather headdress is very special.
It is the last remaining Aztec feather headdress.
Once there were many headdresses like this,
but now this is the only one left.

The **Aztecs** lived in Mexico 500 years ago.
They had a huge empire
and are still known about today.
500 years ago,
Spain conquered the Aztec Empire.

The quetzal

The feather headdress contains almost 400 long feathers. These feathers shine in green, blue and purple colours. They come from a bird called quetzal. We pronounce this as "kwetsal".

The Aztecs believe quetzals were divine birds. They only have two or three long tail feathers. In the Aztec language, quetzal means valuable. Quetzal feathers were very valuable to the Aztec people.



The story of the feather headdress

The feather headdress is more than 500 years old. It may have been a gift from the Aztecs to the Spanish. Or the Spanish may have stolen it.

This feather headdress originally looked a bit different:

- the feathers sloped backwards
- there was a large golden beak on the forehead
- the headdress was worn on the head



The feather headdress came to Austria more than 400 years ago. It was then kept in a castle and in some museums. Then the beak disappeared. The feather headdress has been repaired and modified sometime in the last 400 years. That is why it is now looks flat.

Was this Moctezuma's crown?

Many people believe
this feather headdress is the crown of Moctezuma.
Moctezuma was the last ruler of the Aztecs.
However, experts now think
the headdress was probably
worn by a priest or priestess.

What should happen next?

The feather headdress is highly prized by Mexicans.
This is because:

- it is more than 500 years old.
- it was made before the Europeans came to Mexico
- it is the last remaining Aztec feather headdress

Many Mexicans would like the headdress to be returned to Mexico.
Experts from Mexico and Austria
have been doing research together.
They have taken a very close look at the feather headdress.

The feather headdress is very fragile.
This means it cannot be transported,
as that would make it break.
So the experts have decided
it should stay in Austria.

But this is still being discussed.
This story might not have ended just yet.



Go to the next room.
That is room number: 25.
This room is called A Village in the Mountains.

25

Room 25

A Village in the Mountains

This room shows us
how people live in a **Buddhist** village in the Himalayas.
The Himalayas is a region containing the highest mountains in the world.
These include Mount Everest.

What does **Buddhist** mean?

This word is linked to Buddhism.

Buddhism is the religion of the people who live in this village.

This is why it is a Buddhist village.

Buddhism is very important to these people.

It helps them cope with their difficult life in the mountains.

There are many objects in this room
that the people in the village use every day.
That is why the objects are set out as they would be in a typical village house.

How to the people in this village live?

Some people live in a house in the village
and work in the fields nearby.

Some people live higher up on the mountain pastures.

In summer, there is good feed for the animals on these pastures.

Some people live in a Buddhist monastery.

A small number of people choose to live on their own in the mountains.

Wherever they live,
these people follow the rules of Buddhism.
For example, they take care of other people
and nature.
This means they are good at living together.

However, many young people are now leaving the mountain village for the city.
They don't want to work so hard any more like their parents.
In the city, they might be able to find an easier job,
but they also might not.

What can we learn from the people in the village?
This room makes us think about how we live too.
Perhaps we will ask ourselves the same questions
as the people in the mountain village.

Warning:

This information mentions events in Nepal.

People were treated badly.

Some people died. If you do not want to read about this,
please turn to page 22.

I have to feed myself, my family and my country



Many people in Nepal do not have a job.
They do not have enough money to live on.
So some of them decide to go to another country
to look for work.
They want to earn money.
For themselves.
For their family.
And for their country.

Working in a foreign country

Many young people look for work in other countries.
Every day, almost 2,000 people leave Nepal to find work abroad.
They go to places like:

- Malaysia
- Saudi Arabia
- Qatar

People from Nepal often have a difficult time in these countries.
Some employers take their passports away
and hold them captive.

Most Nepalese workers are not paid very much money for their work.
Some of them have to wait a very long time to get paid.
This means they cannot send money
to their families in Nepal.

These workers do dangerous work.
For example, some of them work as builders.
They work in hot conditions.

Many workers from Nepal die while working abroad.
The dead workers are returned to Nepal in coffins.
Two or three coffins arrive every day.

I Have to Feed Myself, My Family and My Country

The artist Hitman Gurung painted this picture.

It is called

“I Have to Feed Myself, My Family and My Country”.

In the middle of the picture, there is a woman with a blue headscarf.

On her lap there is a coffin.

This picture reminds us of the **Pietà**.



The **Pietà** is an image that appears in many works of art. It shows two people: a woman and a man. The woman is the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus. The figure lying across her lap is Jesus. Mary is shown weeping, because her son is dead.



In Hitman Gurung's picture,
the old woman is a Nepalese mother.
She is very sad.
On her lap is a coffin.
Many Nepalese workers die abroad
and return home in coffins.
The coffin is made up of lots of small images.
These images show injuries and dead people.
They are pictures of accidents involving workers from Nepal.
There are also lots of small images in the background.
These are passport photos of people from Nepal.
They have all worked in another country.
Many of them died there.
They can no longer feed themselves,
their families
or their
country.



Go to the next room.
That is room number: 24.
This room is called Culture War in Vienna.

This room is about a conflict
between Catholic scholars
and scholars who were not Catholic.

Around 100 years ago, there were
some Catholic priests in Vienna
who were also academics and researchers.
These priests wanted to prove
that the Bible was right and modern science was wrong.
To do these, they wanted to find groups of people
who still lived like the earliest humans on Earth.

The priests wanted to prove that:

- people were created in Paradise
- one man and one woman lived together in matrimony
for their whole lives
- even the earliest humans believed in only one god

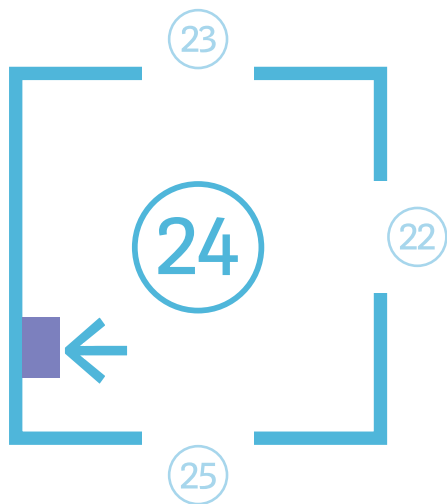
One of these priests was Father Wilhelm Schmidt.
He had lots of students,
including Father Gusinde and Father Schebesta.
They travelled around the world.
They visited communities in ancient forests and remote places.

Father Gusinde and Father Schebesta observed these people closely.
They wrote about how the people lived.
They also collected lots of objects and brought them back with them.

But they could not prove
that the people believed in only one god.
Or that they had just one married partner.
The people had different gods and different rules.
They had to follow these customs within their communities.

The objects that Father Gusinde and Father Schebesta collected are interesting to us today.
We can see them in the Weltmuseum Wien and learn something from them.
They tell us about the people who made them.

Painted cloth made of bast fibres

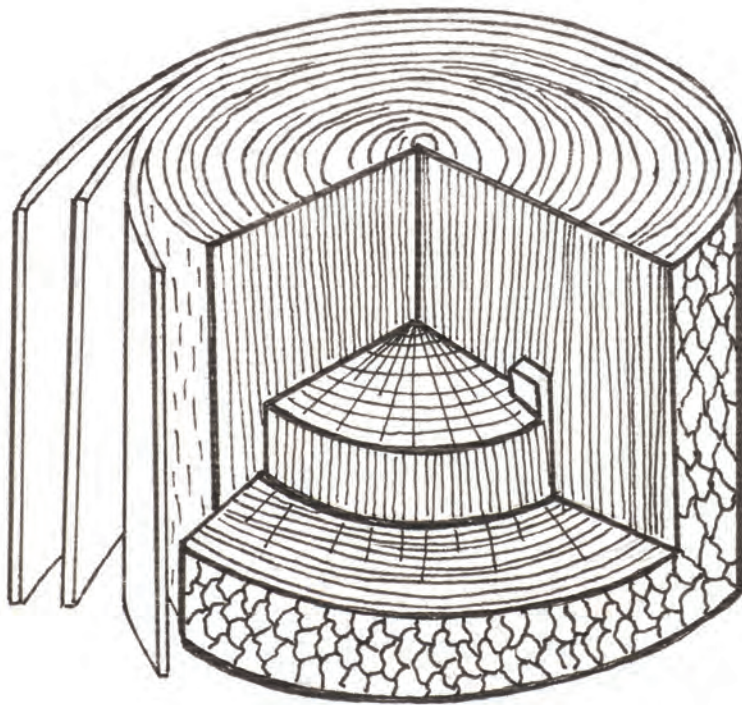


This cloth was made by a group of people called the Mbuti.
They live in the Ituri Rainforest.
This is in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is a country in Africa.

The Mbuti would wrap this cloth around their bodies.
They wore it on ordinary days, but also for important occasions.

How was the cloth made?

The cloth is made of bast fibres.
These come from under the bark of a tree.



Men used a thick piece of wood to beat the bast fibres for a long time.
This made them into a cloth a bit like paper.

Women painted the patterns on the cloths.
They used fruits to make the paint.
So lots of people worked together to make cloths like this.

The rainforest

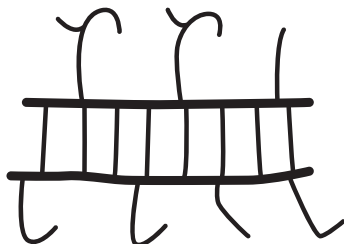
The rainforest is a very important part of life for the Mbuti people.
They know the forest very well.
They can find everything they need to live on there.

The cloths are made using things from the forest,
like bast fibres and fruit.

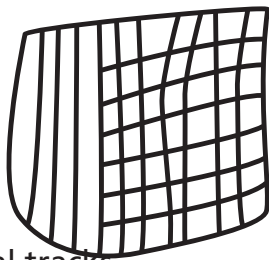
The patterns remind us of animals,
plants and movements from the forest.

For example:

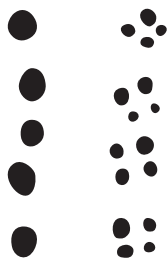
- a branch with thorns



- a spider's web



- animal tracks



Go to the next room.

That is room number: 23.

This room is called Benin and Ethiopia: Art, Power, Resilience.

23

Room 23 Benin and Ethiopia: Art, Power, Resilience

This room is about the Kingdom of Benin
and the Ethiopian Empire.
We pronounce Ethiopia as “ee-thee-oh-pia”.
A kingdom is a powerful country.

Benin and Ethiopia were once important kingdoms in Africa.
For a long time, they had good relations with various countries in Europe.
But over 150 years ago, that changed.

This room is about power and resistance.

Some countries in Europe wanted more power and more money.
Trading with African countries was not enough for them.
They wanted to rule over these countries and turn them into **colonies**.

A **colony** is
when one country takes over regions in another country.
The conquered regions are called a colony.
Usually, colonies were in another part of the world.
The conquering countries controlled their colonies
and often treated the people there badly.

Benin and Ethiopia did not want to be colonies.
The King of Benin and the Emperor of Ethiopia
talked to the rulers in Europe.
The Emperor of Ethiopia gave them lots of gifts,
including to the Emperor of Austria.

The King of Benin was in a difficult position.
All of the regions around Benin were already colonies of Britain,
a powerful country in Europe.

The British also controlled the trade in goods from these regions.
They told the King of Benin he must sign an agreement.

This agreement was about trade.

In Benin, it was the king who dealt with matters of trade.

All traders had to pay him money

when they brought goods over Benin's borders.

The agreement said that British traders did not have to pay any money.

The King of Benin did not want to do what the agreement said,
so Britain sent soldiers to Benin.

Benin lost this war and became a British colony.

This room is also about art.

The King of Benin was forced to leave his country.

The British claimed his treasures.

Later on, they sold many of these treasures in Europe.

This is how objects from Benin ended up in Austria.

Now we can see them on display as art in the Weltmuseum Wien.

But for the people of Benin, they meant something different.

To them, they told a story

of what had happened in the past.

Some objects also reminded them of family members who had died,
so that people could honour their memory.

However, this room also contains lots of objects from everyday life.

Some of these objects are still very valuable,

like the imperial clothes from Ethiopia.

But this room is not just about the history

of the former kingdoms of Benin and Ethiopia.

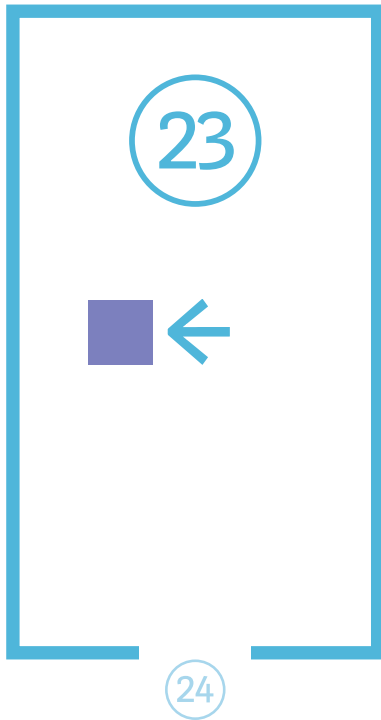
It is also about the relations

between Austria and the African nations today.

The former Kingdom of Benin is now part of Nigeria.

Ethiopia no longer has an emperor. It is now officially called
the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Two court figures



These figures are from the Kingdom of Benin.
They are around 500 years old.
They are of two men who lived in the king's court.

Who were these men?

The two men were very short.

Both of them have rather large heads
and short arms and legs.

Very short people had special jobs in the king's court.

For example:

- they entertained the king
- they were spokespeople for the king
- they passed on messages to the king
- they carried out religious tasks

Why are these figures so special?

These two men probably existed in real life.

There are stories about them.

They have distinctive faces.

The faces of other sculptures from Benin
are all quite similar to one another.

Works of art from the Kingdom of Benin.

The court figures are made of a **copper alloy**.

Many works of art from the Kingdom of Benin are made of this material.

They show important people from Benin's history.

An alloy is a mixture of two metals.

This **copper alloy** is a mixture of copper and tin.

The British stole these works of art.

This means they also stole part of the history
of the Kingdom of Benin.

The former Kingdom of Benin is now part of Nigeria.

Today, people from different countries are working together
to figure out how the works of art can be returned to Nigeria.



Go to the next room.

That is room number: 22.

This room is called An Austrian Mosaic of Brazil.

This room is about Brazil,
which is the biggest country in South America.
It is much bigger than Austria
and a lot more people live there than in Austria.

The different display cases in this room contain objects from Brazil.
Together, they form a mosaic.
The word mosaic is pronounced as "moe-zay-ik".
A mosaic is a picture made up of lots of individual pieces.
These pieces could be small stones or pieces of glass, for example.

Mosaics are often incomplete
because pieces have been lost or have always been missing.
The mosaic in this room is also incomplete.
Only certain objects from Brazil are on display.

Why is this an Austrian mosaic?
Many objects in the display cases have something to do with Austria and Brazil.

An example of the Austrian mosaic:

Over 200 years ago, Brazil was not an independent country.
It was a Portuguese colony.
Leopoldine was the daughter of the Austrian Emperor.
She married Pedro, the son of the King of Portugal.
Since there was war in Europe at that time,
Pedro lived in Brazil.
So Leopoldine travelled to Brazil by ship.

Some Austrian naturalists sailed to Brazil with her.
They wanted to study the plants and animals there.
One of them was Johann Natterer.
He stayed in Brazil for 18 years.
He collected many objects
that you can now see in the display cases.

This room tells us even more about the people who lived in Brazil.

For example:

- How did they live in the past and how to they live today?
- What changed for them when then people from Europe came to America?
- Why were/are they wary of foreign people?

The ant glove



This ant glove was made by the **Sateré-Mawé** people.
The ant glove is for an initiation ceremony.
Initiation means welcoming a young person to adulthood.



The **Sateré-Mawé** live in Brazil.

We pronounce their name as “sateray-maway”.

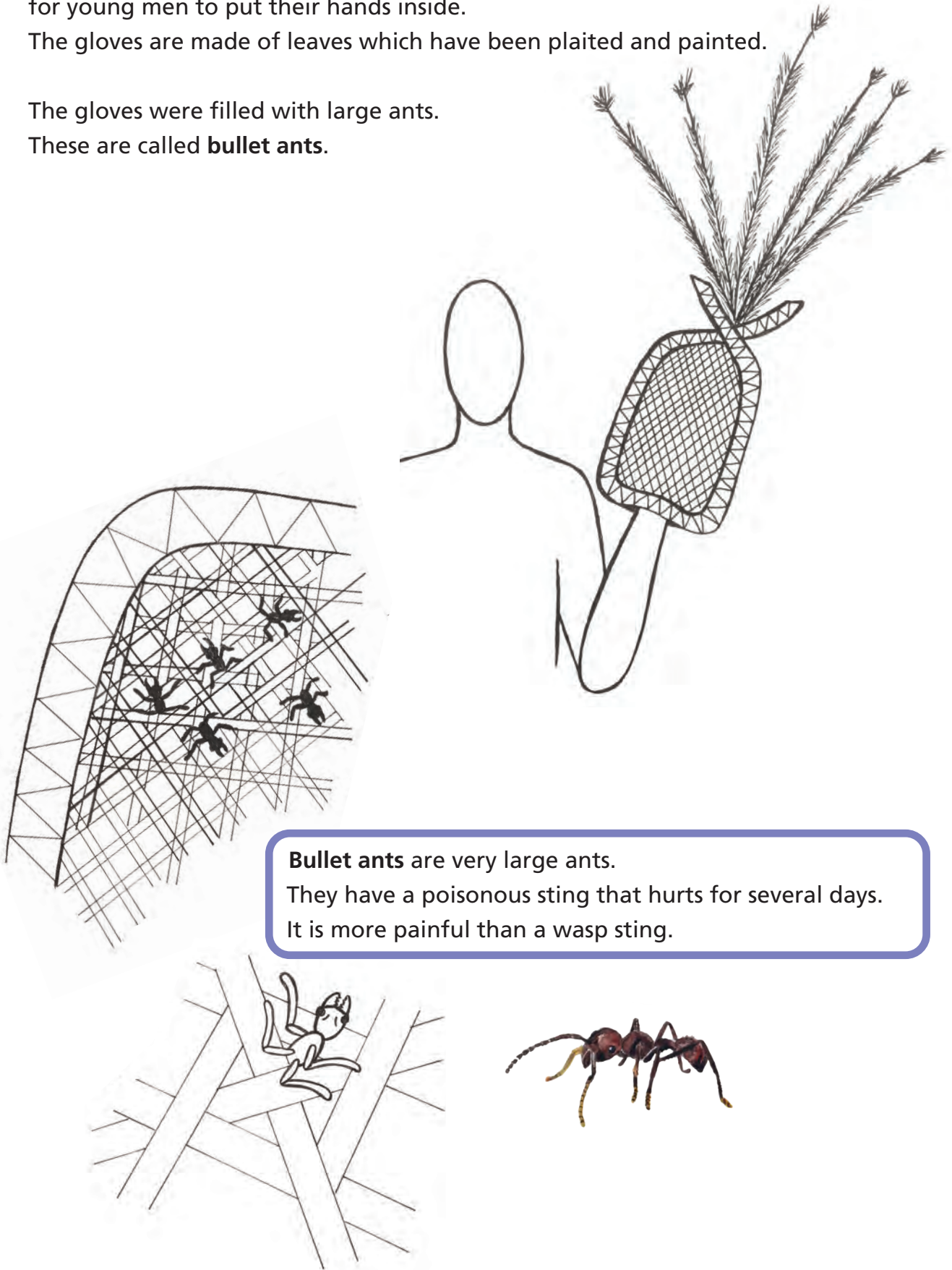
The museum worked with some Sateré-Mawé people to help decide what should go in this display case.

The Sateré-Mawé have also made two videos.

These videos are shown on the wall next to the display case.

This object was made
for young men to put their hands inside.
The gloves are made of leaves which have been plaited and painted.

The gloves were filled with large ants.
These are called **bullet ants**.



Bullet ants are very large ants.
They have a poisonous sting that hurts for several days.
It is more painful than a wasp sting.

Becoming an adult

The initiation ceremony lasts for several days.

The young men put their hands inside the ant glove.

They repeat this up to 20 times.

It is very painful.

This is a kind of test of their bravery.

There is lots of music at the ant ceremony.

The boys and men dance.

This helps take their minds off the pain.

After the ceremony, the young men are considered adults.

They then have new tasks to do.

They are also allowed to do things
that only adults are allowed to do.

Today, young men no longer have to take part in the ceremony
to become adults.

But some of them do so anyway.

This is a way of showing
that they belong to the Sateré-Mawé
and they are proud of that.



Go to the next room.

That is room number: 21.

This room is called In the Shadow of Colonialism.

Room 21

In the Shadow of Colonialism

This room is about the past, but it is also about the present.
It is also about
what colonialism has to do with museums like the Weltmuseum Wien.

What is colonialism?

Colonialism is linked to **colonies**.

A **colony** is
when one country takes over regions in another country.
The conquered regions are called a colony.
Usually, colonies were in another part of the world.
The conquering countries controlled their colonies
and often treated the people there badly.

For example:
Spain used to have colonies in South America.
Korea was once a colony of Japan.

Many people in Europe believed it was right
to rule over the people in colonies.
The Europeans felt superior to the people in the colonies
and wanted to control everything.
They also often decided
what should happen to valuable objects from the colonies.

Sometimes the Europeans bought these objects.
Sometimes they received them as gifts.
Sometimes they also stole them.
Some of these objects ended up in museums.
The Weltmuseum Wien also has many objects from this time.

Many colonies only became independent much later.
They now govern themselves.
However, that is not always easy.

Unfortunately, colonialism often still has an influence over how people think and what they do.

This happens not just in former colonies, but here too.

Former colonies are still often treated as inferior.

That is what “In the Shadow of Colonialism” means.

What has colonialism got to do with the museum?

People today need to learn from colonialism.

This includes treating people from former colonies with respect.

This means people talking to each other more and listening to each other better.

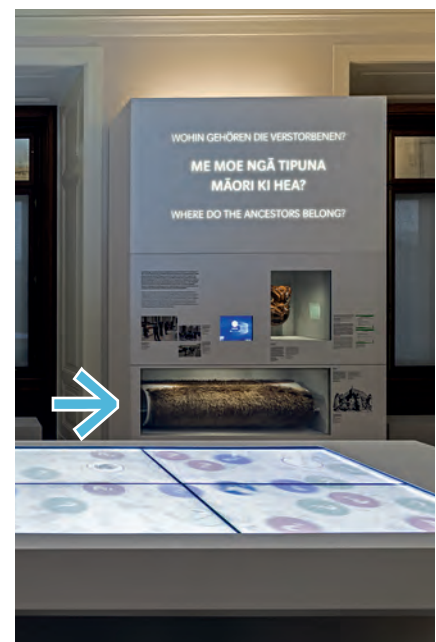
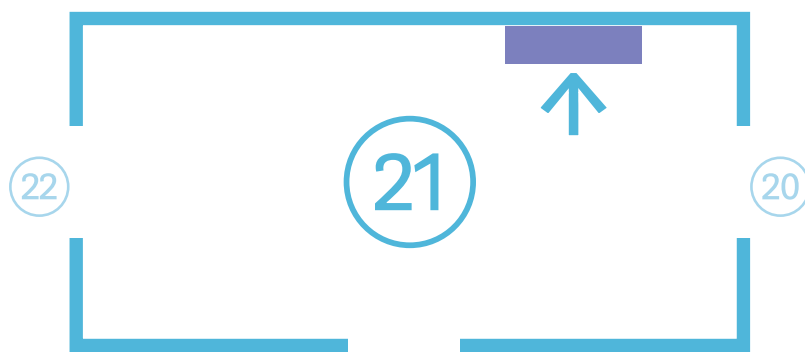
Museums have to do this too.

For example, the Weltmuseum Wien invites experts from former colonies to come and help its staff investigate objects from the collection.

This way, everyone learns new things about the objects in the museum together.

They can also make suggestions together on what should happen to the objects in future.

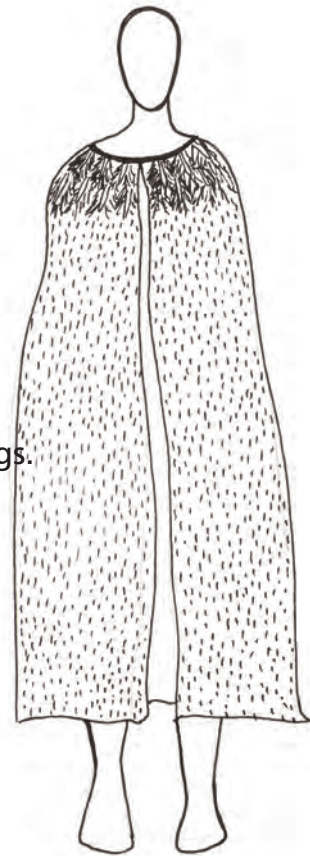
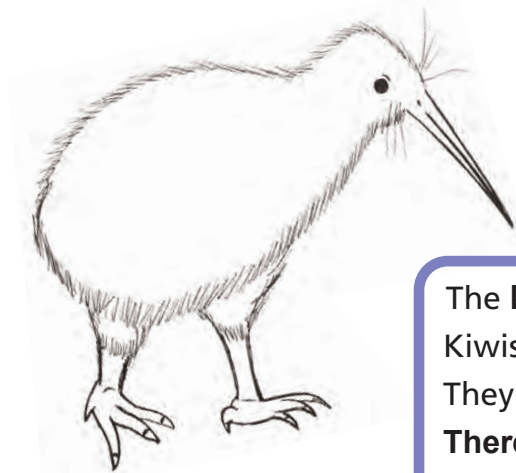
Maori feather cloak



This feather cloak was worn by Maori men.
Maori people live in New Zealand.
New Zealand is made up of two islands in the Pacific Ocean,
near Australia.
The Maori were the first people
to settle on these islands a long time ago.
They still live there today.

The feather cloak was for Maori leaders.
They wore it on important occasions or to important meetings.
When a leader died,
he would be buried in his feather cloak.

The feather cloak is made of lots and lots of **kiwi** feathers.



The **kiwi** is a very important bird in New Zealand.
Kiwis cannot fly.
They have brown feathers and a long beak.
There is also a fruit called kiwi.
That comes from New Zealand too.

Andreas Reischek

Andreas Reischek was an explorer from Austria.
He went to New Zealand 150 years ago.
He wanted to study and collect what he found there.
He also got to know the Maori people.
The Maori were very friendly to him.
They respected him.

But then Andreas Reischek stole bodies from graves.
He took the Maori bodies back to Vienna.

Why did Andreas Reischek take bodies?

At that time, many scientists were studying human beings.

They wanted to show

that people on other continents were less intelligent than people in Europe.

They wanted to use human skeletons to do this.

Nowadays we know

that how intelligent you are

does not depend on where you come from..

The return

Maori people are doing their own research:

- into their history
- into human remains in museums in Europe

They want Maori **human remains** to be returned.

Human remains are things like

body parts and bones.

Some explorers collected human remains like these.

Some remains ended up at the Weltmuseum Wien.

At the museum, they are treated as objects,
not as parts of dead people.

The last human remains were returned in 2015.

Some Maori people came to the Weltmuseum Wien.

The human remains were placed in coffins.

The feather cloak was laid on top of a coffin.

The Weltmuseum Wien gave back the coffins and human remains to the Maori.

The coffins were taken to New Zealand.

The Maori want to bury the dead people there,
in their homeland.



Go to the next room.

That is room number: 20.

This room is called A New Perception – A New View on China.

20

Room 20 A New Perception – View on China

A long time ago, people already knew that there were valuable objects in China.

For example:

- fabric made of silk
- dishes made of porcelain
- tea

People in Europe paid a lot of money for these objects.

Europeans looked up to China.

This was partly because China had good rules for living together as a community.

Over time, more and more people in Europe bought expensive things from China.

People in China did not want to buy anything from Europe.

The European countries did not like this, because they could not sell things to China.

Europeans also wanted to have an influence in China and control the country.

Many people in China fought against this.

This led to several wars.

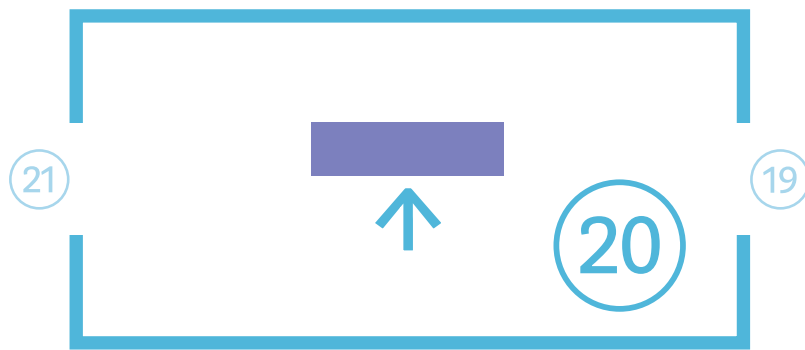
Countries like Austria and Japan fought on the European side in these wars.

In the end, China lost and had to pay lots of money to the winning side.

The European countries now saw China differently.

For example, they said China could not adapt to modern times because it still followed its old customs.

The throne screen



What is a throne screen?

A throne screen is like a dividing wall that stood behind the Emperor of China.

The emperor would sit on a throne.

The throne screen would be behind the throne.

This throne screen is large, red and impressive.

It showed that the emperor was very powerful.

This throne screen belonged to an emperor.
The emperor was named Qianlong.
We pronounce this "chian-long".
This emperor lived around 300 years ago.
This throne screen was made using **lacquer art**.

For **lacquer art**, the artist needs lacquer.
Lacquer is painted on things to make them shiny.
Chinese lacquer is made of sap from a tree.
This tree is called a Chinese lacquer tree.
The lacquer is mixed with coloured powder.
It is painted onto a piece of wood in layers.
Sometimes there are 100 layers.
Each layer needs to dry for several days.
This process takes a long time, sometimes one or two years.
Then the artist carves into the lacquer.

The pictures on the throne screen:

The big picture in the middle shows
a birthday celebration for Xi Wangmu.
We pronounce this as "see wang-moo".
Xi Wangmu is a goddess of immortality, women and nature.
She is standing on a terrace outside her palace.
Two servants are holding fans above her head.



Peach trees are growing in Xi Wangmu's garden.
People believed these peaches could make them immortal.
But they only become ripe every 3,000 years.
When they do, Xi Wangmu holds a big party.

On the throne screen you can also dragons.
They are right at the top.
These dragons have five claws.
A dragon with five claws is a symbol of the emperor.



How did the throne screen end up in the Weltmuseum Wien?

There was a war in China 120 years ago.
Eight countries fought against China.
One of these countries was Austria-Hungary.
China lost the war.
Afterwards, the eight countries took lots of things from China.
Soldiers from Austria-Hungary stole this throne screen from the palace.
Later, it ended up in the Weltmuseum Wien collection.



Go to the next room.
That is room number: 19.
This room is called 1873 – Japan comes to Europe.

19

Room 19

1873 – Japan comes to Europe

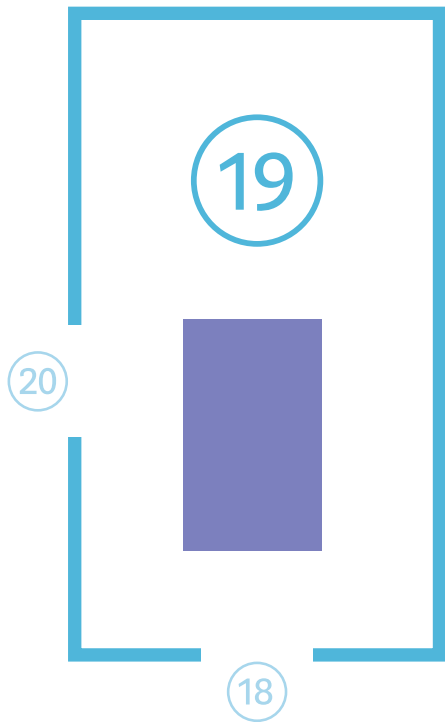
1873 was an important year for both Japan and Austria.
This year was when the World's Fair was held in Vienna.
People from all over the world came to Vienna.
At the World's Fair, they showed particularly beautiful or interesting objects from their countries.

Japan took part in this World's Fair for the first time.
It prepared very well for it.
The Japanese even asked European experts
which objects people in Europe would like best.

In the end, 6,000 objects were brought to Vienna.
You can see one of them in this room.
It is a model of a daimyō residence.
The word daimyō is pronounced as "dai-myō".

However, there are also other objects from Japan in this room.
They are there to show the impression Japan made on Europe at that time.
People were impressed by the objects shown at the World's Fair.
European artists drew lots of inspiration from the Japanese art.
We now call this kind of art Japonism.
We often see Japanese patterns in pictures in the Art Nouveau style too.
One example is the pictures by Gustav Klimt.

Model of a daimyō residence



A daimyō in Japan was a bit like a prince in Austria.
A prince rules over a particular region.
A daimyō ruled over a particular region in Japan.
A residence is what we call the place where a ruler lives.
So the daimyō residence is the home of a Japanese prince.

Thousands of people lived in a daimyō residence.
They were like small towns.
They contained lots of buildings, gardens and even a theatre stage.
In this model you can only see the most important building.

The main building

The daimyō often invited important guests to his residence.
The large main building was where he held things like:

- big celebrations
- small meetings
- political discussions
- special performances



In the building, there were sliding doors made of paper.
The doors were easy to move
to create larger or smaller spaces.
This depended on how much space the daimyō needed for his guests.

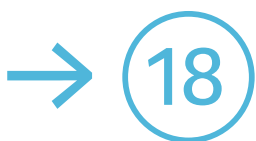
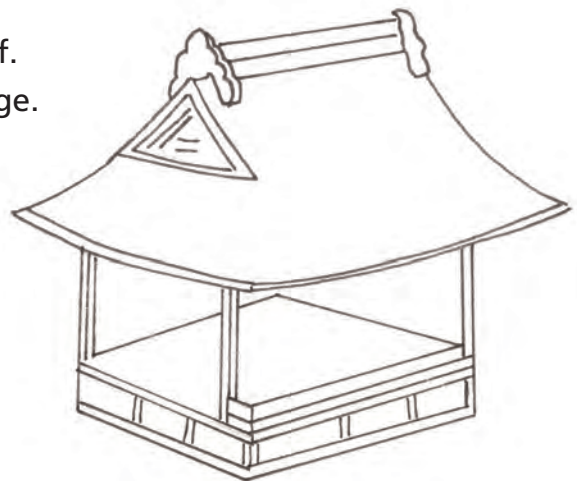
The fire watch tower

The tall tower is a fire watch tower.
In Japan, a lot of buildings used to be made of wood.
This meant that fires often broke out.
When they did, a bell would be rung in the fire watch tower.



The theatre stage

Each residence had a theatre stage.
A kind of Japanese theatre called nō was performed here.
We pronounce this as “noh”.
The stage was very simple and always had a roof.
The audience sat to the left and right of the stage.
In nō, masks and costumes are very important.
Some of these are on display in this room.



Go to the next room.
That is room number: 18.
This room is called Collecting Craze. I Suffer from Museomania!

18

Room 18 Collecting Craze. I Suffer from Museomania!

Franz Ferdinand's world tour

In this room, you can see lots of objects
that Franz Ferdinand collected when he travelled round the world.
He was 29 years old at the time.
His world tour lasted 10 months.

Franz Ferdinand was an archduke.
An archduke was a bit like a prince.
This means he was related to the Emperor of Austria.
He was the emperor's nephew.
The imperial family's name was Habsburg.

Franz Ferdinand used to say
that he suffered from museomania.
This means he was very interested in museums.
He visited many museums on his world tour.

Franz Ferdinand also used to say that he
had a collecting craze.
A collecting craze means
really enjoying collecting lots of things.

Franz Ferdinand wanted to create his own museum.
So during his travels
he bought and collected lots and lots of objects.
These included:

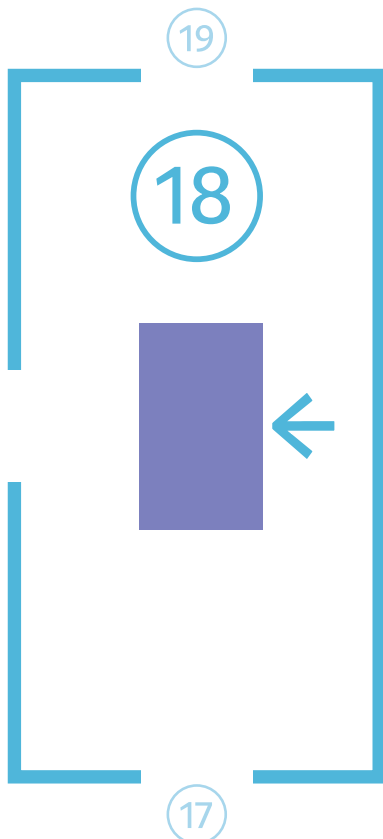
- valuable fabric
- cheap souvenirs
- everyday objects

What else did Franz Ferdinand do on his world tour?
He often went hunting and shot lots of animals.
These included tigers and elephants.

Franz Ferdinand also met some important people,
like the Emperor of Japan.
These meetings were important to him,
because he was expected to become Emperor of Austria one day.
But that never happened.
Franz Ferdinand was killed before he could become Emperor.
That triggered the start of the First World War.

The objects he collected on his travels
had already been on display in the Imperial Palace.
And that is exactly where the Weltmuseum Wien is now.

Colourful wooden toys



Tellery & Co. was a company in India.
Its owner was Austrian.
The company had three shops in India.
In these shops, Mr Tellery sold Indian art and objects.
The shops mainly attracted European customers.

Franz Ferdinand loved these shops.
He bought nearly 1,400 things from Tellery & Co.
He did not usually buy just one of anything.
He preferred to buy lots.
For example, he bought 15 wooden horses.
These are on display here.

Sometimes Franz Ferdinand received expensive gifts,
like valuable works of art.
His own purchases were usually cheap,
they were simply things that he liked.

Franz Ferdinand bought lots of wooden toys.
For example:

- horses
- elephants
- camels
- tigers

Children in India liked playing with wooden animals like these.
European tourists also liked to buy wooden animals.
But they were not very interesting to scholars at that time.
They preferred to buy valuable art.
That is why there are hardly any wooden toys in other museums.

Franz Ferdinand did not take the objects he bought with him.
The staff at Tellery & Co. packed up everything he bought.
Then these objects were taken by cart to Franz Ferdinand's ship.
The ship's crew had to find space for everything.
That was often very difficult!



Go to the next room.
That is room number: 17.
This room is called South Seas: Encounters with Paradise Lost



Room 17

South Seas: Encounters with Paradise Lost

What are the South Seas?

Oceania is a region in the Pacific Ocean.

There are more than 7,000 islands there.

People also used to call this region "the South Seas".

The Pacific Ocean is a huge sea between Asia and America.

Some of the islands there are large, like New Zealand and New Guinea.

But there are lots of very small islands there too.

Only around 2,000 of the islands have people living on them.

The first people came to these islands a long time ago.

They travelled there by boat or ship from Asia.

Then they carried on, sailing from island to island.

This is how the first people came not just to the South Sea islands, but also to Australia.

Oceania is a large continent.

Some time ago, sailors from Europe travelled to Oceania too.

They met the people who had already been living there for a long time.

Sometimes these meetings were friendly.

For example, gifts were given
or objects were exchanged.

But sometimes there were problems.

This could lead to fighting, and even murder.

European sailors also came

because they wanted to take control of the islands.

They brought guns with them.

And they brought diseases too.

The people on the islands could not defend themselves against either.

That is why many European countries had **colonies** in Oceania.

A **colony** is
when one country takes over regions in another country.
The conquered regions are called a colony.
Usually, colonies were in another part of the world.
The conquering countries controlled their colonies
and often treated the people there badly.

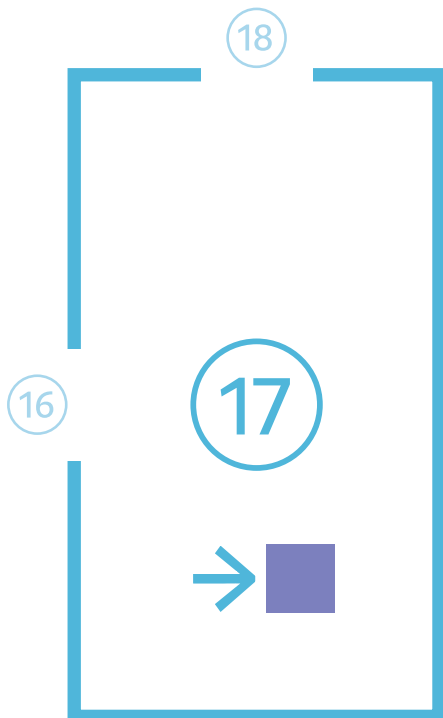
These objects were collected by sailors and explorers
when they visited the islands.

Many of the objects were collected by the British sailor Captain James Cook
more than 250 years ago.

After he died, his collection was sold in London.

The Emperor of Austria bought lots of objects from the famous captain's collection.

The gods Ku and Lono



Sculptures of gods

This sculpture was made on the island of Hawaii.

It shows the head of a god.

The people on Hawaii believed in many gods.

Hawaii is a large island between Asia and America.

The people on Hawaii used sculptures
to pray to their gods.

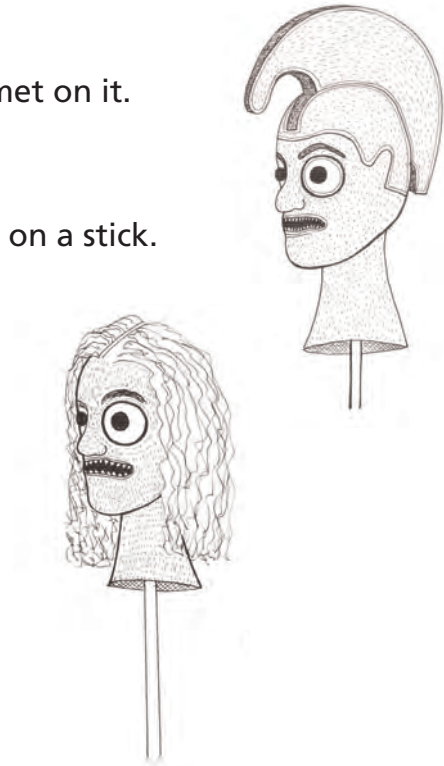
They prayed to the gods for help
or offered them gifts.

One sculpture, but two gods

The people on Hawaii used this sculpture for two gods.

They put different things on the sculpture
for each god:

- Sometimes the sculpture had a feathered helmet on it.
That was for the god Ku.
Ku is the Hawaiian god of war.
The Hawaiian people would put the sculpture on a stick.
They would carry it into war with them
to scare their enemies.
- Sometimes the sculpture had a wig on it,
made of real human hair.
That was for the god Lono.
Lono is the Hawaiian god of peace
and **fertility**.



Fertility means

that people, animals and plants are able to create new life.
People hoped that the god of fertility would help
make fruit grow on the trees
or enable them to have children.

How was the sculpture made?

The head is made of roots and plants.

The roots were plaited,
like making a basket.

The plants were knotted, like a net.

Feathers were knotted onto the net.



On the sculpture you can see lots of small feathers from a particular bird.

In Hawaiian, this bird is called an 'i'iwi.

We pronounce this as "ee-ee-vee".

This bird is also known as a scarlet honeycreeper.

Its feathers are red.

In Hawaii, red is a sacred colour.

There are 100 dog's teeth in the sculpture's mouth.

The sculpture's eyes are made of mother of pearl.



Mother of pearl is the inner layer found in some shells.
It has a beautiful shiny and colourful surface.



Go to the next room.

That is room number: 11.

This room is called Fascinated by Indonesia.

This room is about Indonesia.

Indonesia is a country in Asia.

It is also about people who were fascinated by this country – or you could say, enchanted by it.

Their stories are told in this room.

What is so special about Indonesia?

Indonesia is a country

made up of lots of islands.

There are over 17,000 islands in Indonesia.

These islands include:

- Sumatra
- Java
- Bali

The islands are located between Asia and Australia.

The stories told in this room:

These stories tell us about Indonesia

and its relations with Austria.

But they also tell us about the people in Indonesia.

One story is about batik cloths.

These clothes have unique patterns on it.

They are very important to the people in Indonesia.

The people use batik cloths throughout their lives, from when they are born to when they die.

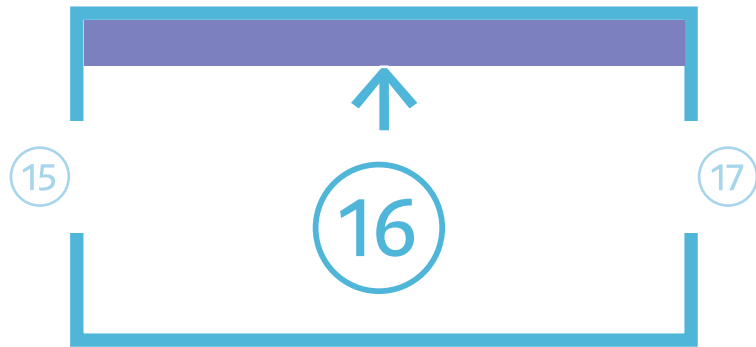
They often wear these cloths on special occasions.

They also pass batik cloths on to their children.

So many families have some very old and valuable cloths.

Indonesian people believe batik cloths are good for the soul.
They help make them feel comfortable and happy.
Batik clothes mean a lot to people in Indonesia.
For example, they might remind them of family members who have died.

A special batik cloth



Batik patterns

The patterns on batik clothes tell stories.

If you know what the batik patterns mean, you can read the story.

This valuable batik cloth has a special meaning.

The pattern on the cloth means happiness.

There are two patterns on this cloth:

- a peacock, which means beauty



- the wings of a bird, which means power.
The pattern shows the wings of **Garuda**.



Garuda is a divine mythical creature in Indonesia.
He is half-human and half-bird.
He fights off snakes and protects people.
An important god also uses Garuda to ride on.

Forbidden patterns

Some batik patterns had a special meaning.

These are known as forbidden patterns.

Only the royal family or the nobility were allowed to wear them.

Everyone else was forbidden from using these patterns.

One of the forbidden patterns is the wings of Garuda.

How batik cloths have changed

People came to Indonesia from many different countries.

For example, some came from:

- the Arab countries
- China
- the Netherlands

These people changed the art of batik.

They introduced new colours and patterns from their homeland.

When things change, it sometimes makes them more interesting.

The cloths were originally brown and blue.

On this cloth, the colour yellow has been added.

The forbidden pattern of Garuda's wings has also changed.

Here it has been combined with a peacock.

This means anyone is allowed to wear this cloth.

The new pattern is no longer forbidden.

It reminds us of old batik cloths and the royal family.



Go to the room after the next one.

That is room number: 14.

This room is called Into a New World.

You can skip room 15.

14

Room 14 Into a New World

This room is about North America,
which also used to be called the New World.

This room contains many objects from **indigenous people** in North America.

Indigenous people are the first people to live in a country.
They were there long before people who came from other countries.

People used to call the indigenous people in North America "indians".
In this guide, we have chosen to call them indigenous people.

We typically imagine an indigenous man from North America
as sitting on a horse.

He would be wearing a beautiful feather headdress.

He would be surrounded by flat grassland,
with a few buffalo in the background.

The men hunt these animals.

But is that true?

Horses were only introduced to America by Europeans 500 years ago.

Before that, there were no horses in America.

And grassland is not the only kind of landscape in North America.

There are also high mountains and dense forests.

And there are places with lots of ice and snow.

Indigenous people were living in North America
for a long time before people from Europe arrived there.

The indigenous people were not one group of people.

Different groups lived in different parts of North America.

These groups hunted different animals, for example.

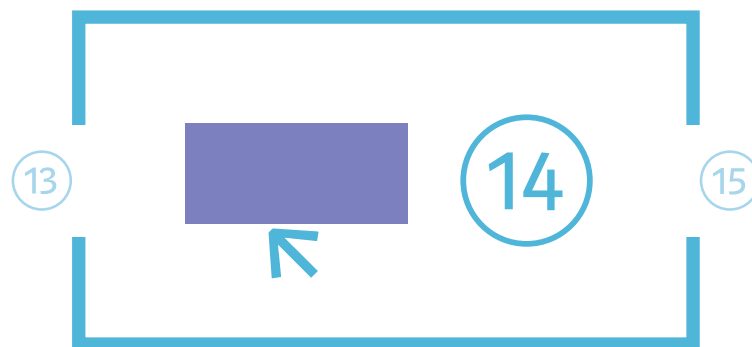
So they did not just hunt buffalo.

They lived in different kinds of tents or houses.

They celebrated different festivals.

People who belong to these groups
are still living in North America today.
They still make lots of things like they used to.
But they make new things now too.
For example, they make caps and banners.
They use these things to show
that they are part of a community.
They also show that they are proud of their community.

Feather headdress and caps



Who really wore a feather headdress?

Many books and films about North America show people wearing feather headdresses.

That is why we often think that all indigenous groups in North America wore feather headdresses.

Each indigenous group in North America had its own kind of clothing. In fact, only some groups wore feather headdresses.

Feather headdresses were valuable objects. Only certain men were allowed to wear them. For example, men who had fought bravely in battle.

What is the story of this feather headdress?

This feather headdress has never been worn. It is only 30 years old. The headdress was a gift for an Austrian called Egon Winkler.

This feather headdress is from Florida, which is in the south of North America. But indigenous groups in Florida never wore feather headdresses.

Nowadays, many indigenous groups wear feather headdresses, on special occasions. Even if they did not traditionally wear them. Feather headdresses are important to many indigenous people, because they are proud of their heritage.

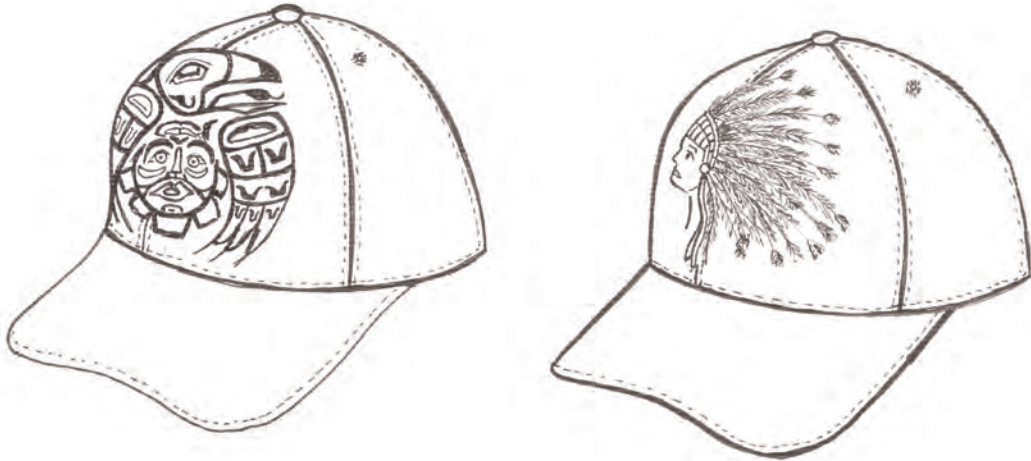
A new kind of headdress

On the caps there are pictures of different things.

These things are important to indigenous people.

For example:

- a feather headdress
- a bow and arrow
- important animals
- names of indigenous groups



The real feather headdress is for special occasions.

But people can wear these caps every day.

So they can show every day

that they are indigenous people from North America.

And that they are still here today.



Go to the next room.

That is room number: 13.

This room is called At the Threshold of the Orient.

13

Room 13

At the Threshold of the Orient

The **Orient** is not one particular place.
It is not one particular country either.

The word **Orient** means the rising sun.
In the morning, we see the sun rise in the east.
So the word Orient means something in the east.
For example, countries that are east of where we live.

There are lots of countries to the east of Austria.
This region includes countries like:

- Iran
- Türkiye
- Egypt

Nowadays, these countries are not so far removed from Vienna.
That is what "At the threshold of the orient" means.

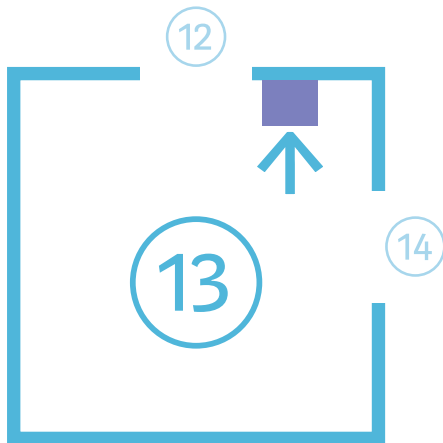
Many objects in this room tell us about
the relations between Vienna and these countries.
They also tell us stories about people
who collected objects from Iran, Türkiye and Egypt.

People in Austria were particularly interested in these countries.
There were lots of things there that were unfamiliar to Austrian people.
There were many objects they liked. For example:

- Carpets and furniture
- Clothing and jewellery
- Dishes and vases
- Tea and coffee

The people in Iran, Türkiye and Egypt
had different rules and laws.
They often behaved differently.
Austrian people found this strange.
It also frightened them.

A coat for a special occasion



The travels of Josef Troll

Josef Troll was a traveller from Vienna.

He lived around 100 years ago.

He was not an explorer.

But he had enough money to go travelling.

Josef Troll wanted to learn about countries that Europeans still did not know very much about.

He travelled to places like:

- India
- Iran
- China

Josef Troll collected objects on his travels.

Then he sold or gave these objects to museums.

Sometimes he took objects without asking.

Like many Europeans at that time, he believed that Europeans were better than people from other countries.

Central Asia

Josef Troll also travelled to Central Asia.

This is a region between India, Iran and China.

One country in Central Asia is now called Uzbekistan.

Most Europeans were not familiar with these countries.

Around 150 years ago, they began

to take an interest in Central Asia.

At this time, a railway was built.

This gave Europeans a convenient way to travel to Uzbekistan.

Josef Troll was the first European
to make this journey.

He got on the train in Vienna
and arrived in Uzbekistan 13 days later.

Then he travelled onwards by horse.

He was away for 15 months.

A coat for a special occasion

This special coat is from Uzbekistan.

Coats like these were worn for special occasions.

They showed that a person was rich.

The coat is made of silk.

This pattern is very complicated to weave.

That makes the fabric particularly valuable.

This kind of fabric probably came from China.

It was brought to Central Asia by traders.



Imprint

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www.weltmuseumwien.at

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