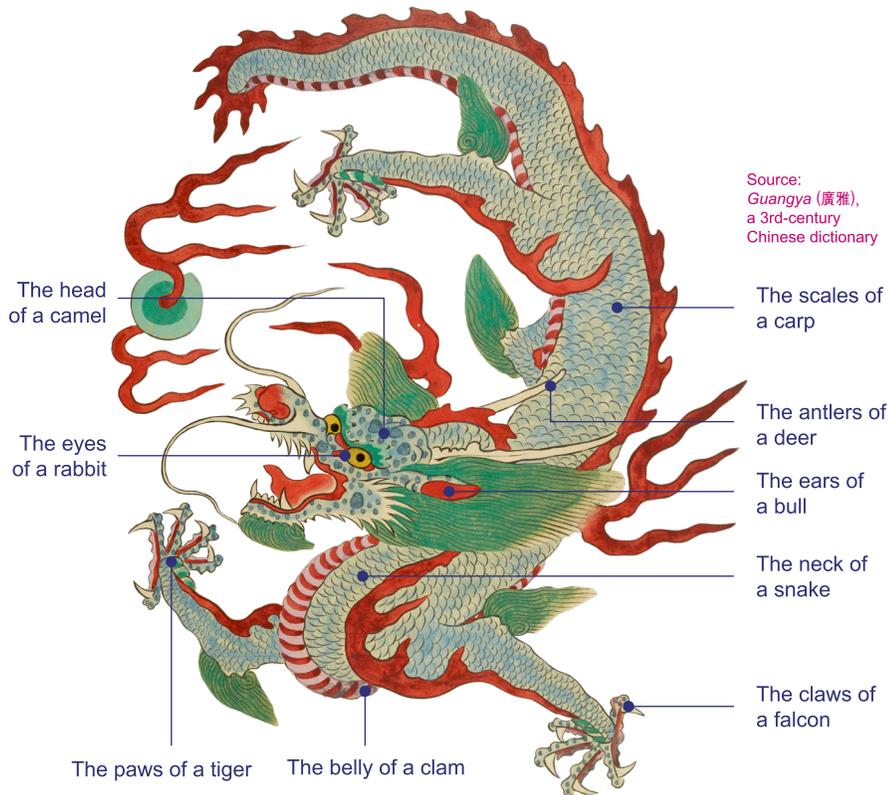


# Animal Encyclopedia

What is Hidden?

Ancient people created the dragon (*yong*, 龙), an imaginary creature, by combining the unique characteristics of different animals.

Find each hidden animal part in the painting.



Source:  
*Guangya* (廣雅),  
a 3rd-century  
Chinese dictionary

## How Are They Different?

# Animal Encyclopedia

There are various stories, poems, and songs about dragons around the world. The legends of dragons are deeply rooted in our lives.

Did you know that Asian dragons and European dragons are different?  
Let's explore the differences.



“

### Asian Dragon

- Has the antlers of a deer.
- Has the body of a snake.
- Flies on the wind and clouds.
- Rules the water.

”

“

### European Dragon

- Has the horns of ox, sheep, or goat.
- Has the body of a lizard.
- Flies with wings.
- Releases fire from the mouth.

”



# Nine Sons of the Dragon

What Do They Enjoy?

Various dragon stories are shared across Asia. One legend tells the story of the nine sons of the dragon. None of the sons became dragons, and each of them had a favorite task. They are described here in order of their age, from oldest to youngest.

- 1. Bihui:** Resembles a tortoise, enjoys carrying heavy loads, and is depicted on the pedestal of steles.
- 2. Imun:** Resembles a beast, enjoys looking down from a high place, and is depicted on roofs.
- 3. Poroe:** Resembles a dragon but is small, enjoys crying or roaring, and is depicted on bell cannons (a tube for conveying sound).
- 4. Pyean:** Resembles a tiger, enjoys guarding, and is depicted on prison gates.
- 5. Docheol:** Enjoys food and is depicted on cauldrons.
- 6. Gongbok:** Enjoys water and is depicted on bridges.
- 7. Aeja:** Enjoys killing and is depicted on sword handles.
- 8. Geumye:** Resembles a lion, enjoys fire, and is depicted on incense burners.
- 9. Chodo:** Enjoys opening and closing himself like a clam and is depicted on front doors and doorknobs.

Source: *Seongho saseol*, 성호사설; *Encyclopedic Discourses of the scholar Yi Ik* (이익, 1681-1763, pen name: Seongho).

Where Are They?

# Nine Sons of the Dragon

The nine sons have traditionally been depicted on artifacts relating to their favorite tasks. You may wonder about the appearance and favorite task of each of the nine sons.

Learn about the sons of the dragon through these artifacts in the 1st-floor galleries.



## Eldest Son: Bihui (비희, 鼉)

Stele of Master Wonrang from Wolgwangsa Temple  
Site 월광사 원랑선사 탐비  
890 CE → Path to History



## Third Son: Poro (포뢰, 蒲牢)

Buddhist Bell with Inscription of "the 4th Cheongnyeong Year" "청녕 4년"이 새겨진 종  
1058 CE → Goryeo Dynasty II Room (116)



## Ninth Son: Chodo (초도, 椒圖)

Door handles with beast face 짐승 얼굴 모양 문고리  
8th-9th century CE → Unified Silla Room (111)

These artifacts are examples intended to illustrate the legend. Their real meaning may not be directly related to the legend.

# Nine Sons of the Dragon

Where Are They?

The nine sons have traditionally been depicted on artifacts relating to their favorite tasks. You may wonder about the appearance and favorite task of each of the nine sons.

Learn about the sons of the dragon through these artifacts in the 3rd-floor galleries.

3 Children of the Dragon II



## Fifth Son: Docheol (도철, 饗餼)

Bronze cooking vessel 청동정

China | 12th-11th century BCE → China Room (309)



## Seventh Son: Aeja (애자, 睚眦)

Long sword (*uchigatana*) 우치가타나

Japan | 19th century CE → Japan Room (310)



## Eighth Son: Geumye (금예, 金猊)

Lion-shaped incense burner 사자모양 향로

12th century CE → Celadon Room (303)

These artifacts are examples intended to illustrate the legend. Their real meaning may not be directly related to the legend.

Where Are They?

# Nine Sons of the Dragon

The nine sons have traditionally been depicted on artifacts relating to their favorite tasks. You may wonder about the appearance and favorite task of each of the nine sons.

Learn about the sons of the dragon through these artifacts that are, unfortunately, not located in the NMK galleries.



## Second Son: Imun (이문, 螭吻)

Dragon style acroterion 용모양 지붕장식  
Thailand | 14th century CE → Storage of the National Museum of Korea



## Fourth Son: Pyean (폐안, 狻猊)

Wall painting in Myeongbujeon Hall 명부전 벽화  
1888 CE → Tongdosa Temple, Yangsan,  
Gyeongsangnam-do Province  
© Research Institute of Sungbo Cultural Heritage



## Sixth Son: Gongbok (공복, 蚣蝮)

Dragon statue on Yeongjegyo Bridge 영제교 난간 용상  
15th century CE, restored in 2001 → Gyeongbokgung Palace, Seoul



How Have  
They Changed?

# Four Guardian Deities

The four guardian deities continued to protect tombs during the Goryeo (918-1392) and Joseon (1392-1910) Dynasties. However, they were sometimes expressed in slightly different ways.

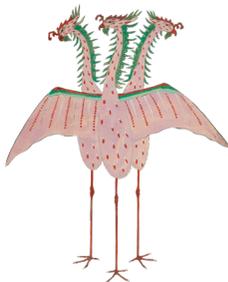
These guardian deities date to the 18th century. Compare and contrast them to those depicted in Gangseodaemyo Tomb.



White Tiger  
(백호, 白虎)



Black Tortoise  
(현무, 玄武)



Red Phoenix  
(주작, 朱雀)



Blue Dragon  
(청룡, 靑龍)

# A Symbol of Royalty

## King and Dragon

A king was traditionally considered to be a descendant of the dragon. In the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910), several terms used to refer to the king and his possessions incorporated the word “dragon” as an honorific.



Portrait of King Taejo (r. 1392-1398), the founding king of the Joseon Dynasty

The **king's face** was referred to as the “**dragon's face**” (*yongan*, 용안).



Observe the face of the king and guess his personality.

The **king's robes** were referred to as the “**dragon's clothes**” (*yongpo*, 용포).



Find and observe the embroidery of the three dragons on the robe.

# A Symbol of Royalty

A king was traditionally considered to be a descendant of the dragon. In the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910), several terms used to refer to the king and his possessions incorporated the word “dragon” as an honorific.



A replica of the royal throne of the Joseon Dynasty

The **king's throne** was referred to as the “**dragon's seat**” (**yongsang**, 용상).

The king's throne (*eojwa*, 어좌) was decorated with dragons to elevate royal powers and wish for good luck. A pair of dragons were delicately engraved around a wish-fulfilling jewel (*cintamani*) at the center of the canopy.



How many dragons are depicted on the chair?

..... dragons

## Jar with Dragon Design (용무늬 향아리)

Jars with dragon designs were placed on both sides of the throne.



Circle the correct answer among the following descriptions.

1. A jar was placed in the king's bedroom to store valuable items.
2. A jar was used to arrange flowers or contain alcohol for royal banquets.
3. Jars made in different colors were used to decorate the interior of the palace.

# Dragon Motif Ceramics

*Celadon*

An ewer is a jug or a pitcher used to hold and pour tea or liquor. During the Goryeo Dynasty (918-1392), celadon ewers were made with the motifs of human figures, animals, or plants.

In the following celadon ewers, each dragon is mixed with another animal. Guess which animal it may be.



Dragon

+



Dragon

+



# Dragon Motif Ceramics

Jars for official court ceremonies in the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910) were decorated with dragon designs. Dragons were illustrated in one of two colors: reddish-brown using red ochre or blue using cobalt blue pigment.



Jar with Dragon and Cloud Designs  
백자 청화 구름·용무늬 향아리

Aside from the dragon, which animal symbolizes the royal family?

1. Horse
2. Lion
3. Phoenix
4. Bull



This is a ceremonial jar that was used in the Joseon royal court.

Decorate it with colors or patterns.