



STAINED GLASS HUMANS & DIVINE BEINGS

BEFORE

Try out this activity before watching the first video!

In this video, you'll learn about divine beings in medieval European stained-glass windows, but this is not the only culture or belief system that includes divine beings! Before you watch, check out the activity below to learn how other cultures and religions in the Glencairn collection show divine beings in their art. Click on each image to learn more about that being!



In ancient Egyptian beliefs there were hundreds of divine beings depending on how you count them. Some took animal form. Some took human form. And some might appear as a combination of the two. For example, the goddess Hathor often took the form of a cow, or a human woman with cow ears and sometimes horns. She was a goddess associated with women, fertility, and love.

The people of Ancient Mesopotamia who lived thousands of years ago believed in many gods and goddesses, as well as other divine beings. One of these, which you can see in this small picture, was a protective being called an apkallu. Apkallu wore horned headdresses, had wings, and were believed to watch over and protect the king.



The religion of Buddhism has lots of variety based on where in the world, or when in history, people followed it. One thing all Buddhists have in common is a dedication to Buddha who started Buddhism in the 5th century BCE. Buddhism has divine or enlightened and compassionate beings called bodhisattvas that help others on their spiritual path. This statue is of the bodhisattva named Guanyin.

Ancient Greece had many different divine beings in the form of gods and goddesses. Each one ruled over a different part of life, nature, or sometimes a city or town. For example, the goddess Athena who was the Greek goddess of war and wisdom, but also the patron goddess of Athens.



In Islam, a lot of art doesn't include people or animals but can include calligraphy, especially in religious spaces like mosques. Some Islamic art does show animals like this tile from Iran which shows a creature that isn't quite divine, but is mythological. This is a simurgh, a bird-like animal that is believed to be kind and protective, but also can symbolize a person's own spiritual journey.

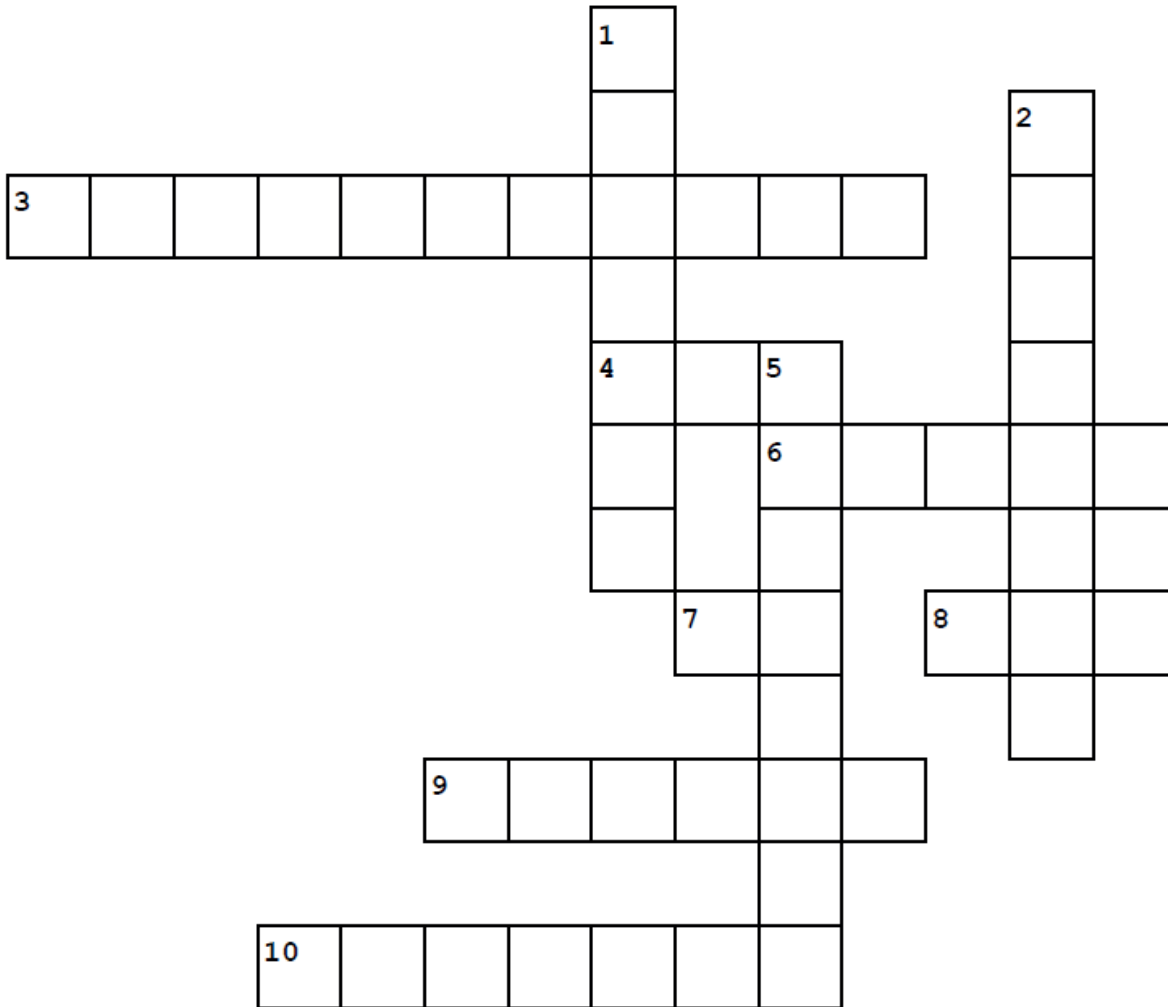
Test your knowledge by trying the crossword on the next page!

Hint: Check your answers at the end of this activity pack.



GLENCAIRN
MUSEUM

DIVINE BEINGS CROSSWORD



Across

3. A name meaning "between two rivers"
4. Animal symbol of Athena
6. The country in which Buddhism began
7. Hathor is the daughter of this god
8. Animal associated with Hathor
9. The language that Islamic calligraphy is written in
10. The Chinese name for the bodhisattva who hears all prayers and cries for help

Down

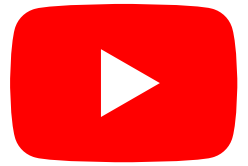
1. The bird whose tail is part of the simurgh
2. Ancient Greek god of the seas
5. A liquid offering to a god or goddess



DURING

Press play to watch the video and see if you can complete this activity during your viewing!

STAINED GLASS HUMANS & DIVINE BEINGS Gallery Video



As you watch, you'll hear Christian stories that are connected to different parts of the world. At the time-stamps below, pause, read, and follow the links to see religious sites associated with the stories in the video!



- Ⓜ **Pause at 2:22** - This scene of the Angel Gabriel telling Mary she is going to give birth to Jesus is often referred to as the Annunciation. In Loreto, Italy is the Basilica della Santa Casa or the Basilica of the Holy House. This is believed to be the house where Gabriel appeared to Mary. Originally, in Nazareth, it is said to have been moved to Loreto by angels to protect it.

[Watch this video about the Basilica della Santa Casa](#)



- Ⓜ **Pause at 4:46** - St Catherine of Alexandria grew up during the late 3rd century CE. Centuries later, she became associated with the monastery at Mt Sinai in Egypt, the site where Moses is believed to have received the Ten Commandments from God. It is believed angels brought St Catherine's body from her home in northern Egypt to this holy site.

[Check out St Catherine's Monastery](#)
(Use the white arrows to navigate.
Avoid the blue arrows.)



- Ⓜ **Pause at 5:45** - Theophilus of Alexandria is a very important figure to the Coptic Christians of Egypt. Most Christians in Egypt practice Coptic Christianity. The Egyptian city of Alexandria is the center of the Coptic faith. The Hanging Church in Cairo, just south of Alexandria, is one of the oldest Coptic churches in Egypt.

[Explore the Hanging Church of Cairo](#)



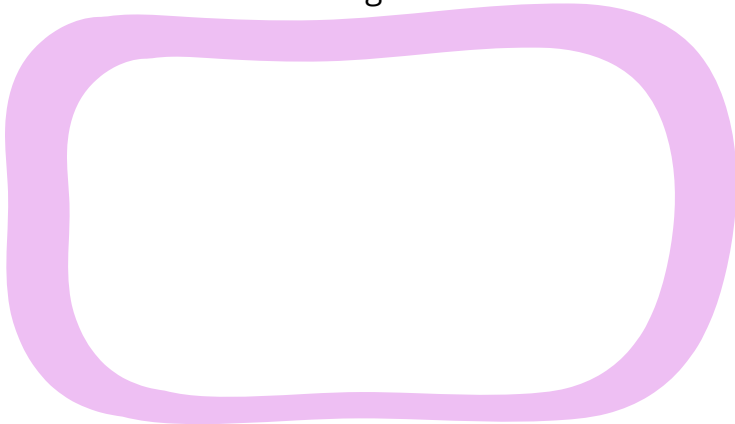
AFTER

After you've watched the video, try this activity to think about how the qualities of divine beings in different religions might be qualities that are present in your life and beliefs too!

For each quality, read its definition, and then draw or write about a person in your life, or a part of your religion that you think is a good example of this quality.

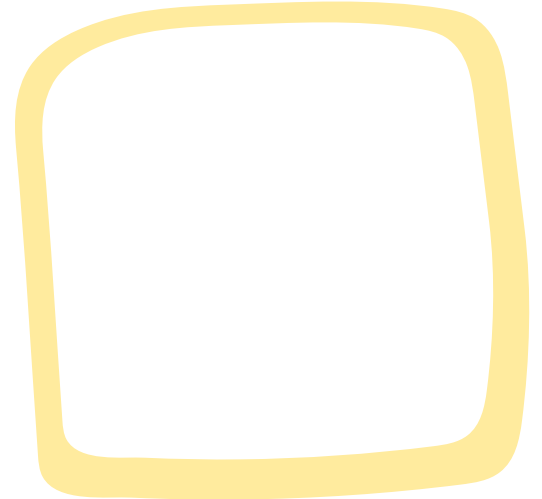
Divine beings are respected and admired for their...

COMPASSION Care and concern for the suffering of others.

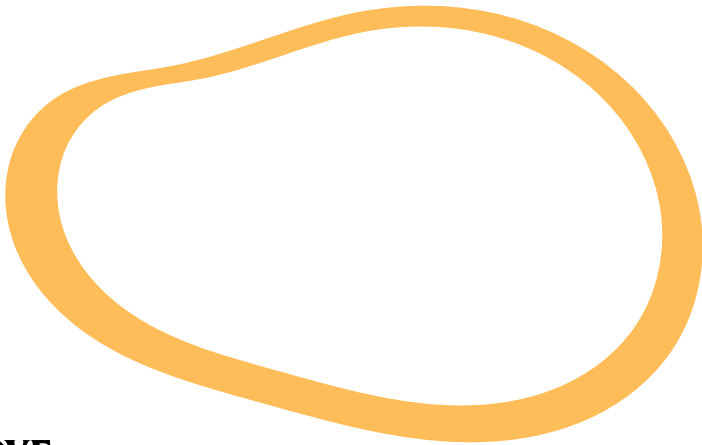


PROTECTION

Defending and making sure someone isn't hurt or harmed.

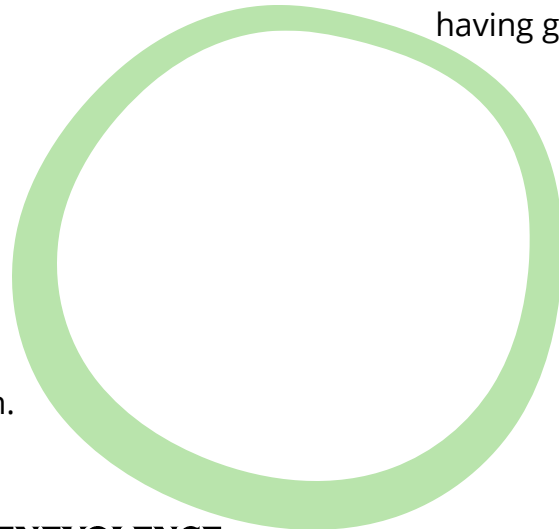


POWER Having great strength, force, or ability.

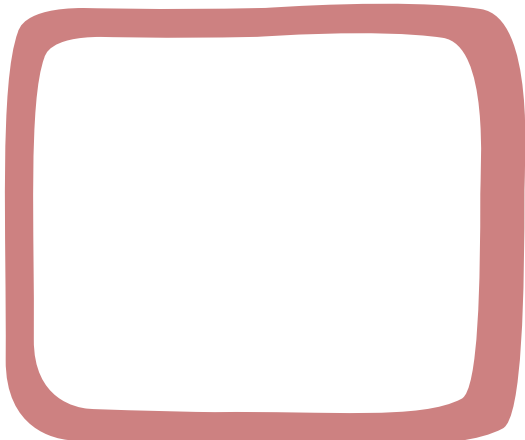


WISDOM

Being very experienced, knowledgeable, and having good judgement.



LOVE Caring for someone or something very much.



BENEVOLENCE Genuinely wishing good for others.



ANSWERS

