

# GALLERY HUNT Year of the Wood Sheep

Travel through the VMFA galleries to explore different cultures and time periods as you find works of art that have sheep in them.



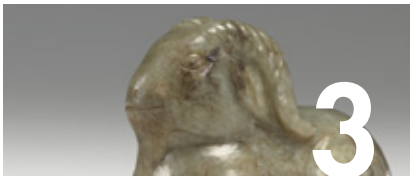
## Native American Gallery, Level 2

This is a wool blanket made by the Navajo American Indians of the Southwest. Domestic sheep were used for wool in China, too. To dye the wool naturally, both the Navajo and Chinese used plants, insects, and minerals. *What are some colorful things in nature that could be used for dye?* \_\_\_\_\_



## Native American Gallery, Level 2

This serving spoon is carved from a sheep horn and was used along the Northwest Coast during potlatches, special gatherings for sharing food and gifts. In China's Hebei and Shanxi provinces, sheep are worshiped. Each year the "Sheep Day" festival takes place at the end of the wheat harvest. Large quantities of floury sheep-shaped bread are made and shared with family, specifically with mothers and small children. *What foods are meaningful to you? Why?* \_\_\_\_\_



## East Asian Galleries, Level 2

This small Chinese sculpture of a sheep or ram (a male sheep) is made of nephrite, a type of jade. Jade is considered precious and beautiful in Chinese culture. In fact, *yu*, the word for jade in Chinese, means beautiful stone. People born in 1907, 1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, and 2003 are classified as sheep on the Chinese zodiac calendar. *Do you know someone born in the year of the sheep?* \_\_\_\_\_



## Ancient Galleries, Level 2

This ancient Greek rhyton, or drinking vessel, is in the form of a ram's head. Both the ancient Greeks and Chinese used zodiac calendars, a study in astrology, the stars, and the passing of time. In the Greek zodiac, the Aries sign is represented by the ram. People born during this time are thought to be courageous, independent, enthusiastic, and generous. *List words that describe your personality.* \_\_\_\_\_



## African Galleries, Level 2

This ram's head made of wood was created by the Benin people of Nigeria. Wood represents one of the five Chinese elements. People born in the year of the wood are thought to be artistic, have strong beliefs, enjoy exploring, and work hard. *What are some other characteristics that wood might symbolize or represent?* \_\_\_\_\_

VMFA Family Events are generously sponsored by the MeadWestvaco Foundation



ChinaFest Programmatic support provided by The Rose Group for Cross-Cultural Understanding

