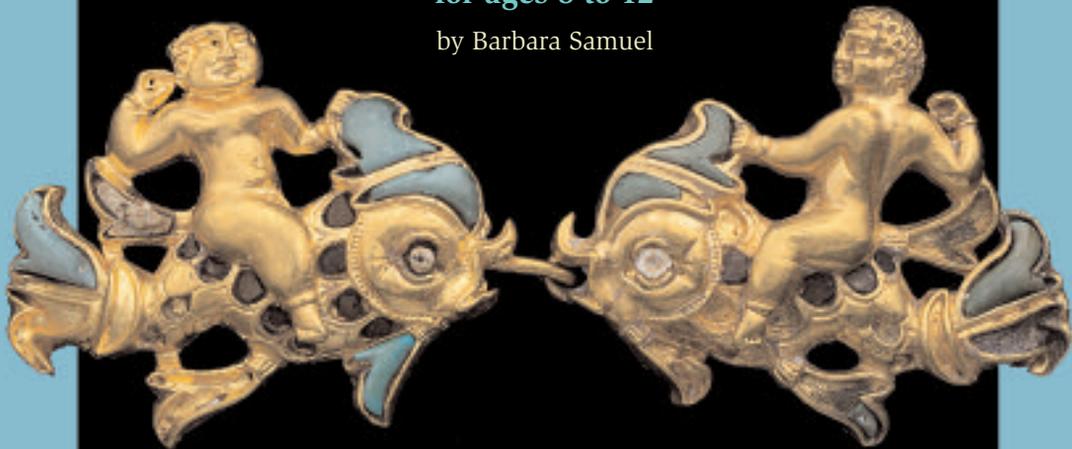


# *Discovery Guide*

for ages 8 to 12

by Barbara Samuel



## AFGHANISTAN

*Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul*

National Gallery of Art / May 25–September 7, 2008

At the crossroads of Asia, in a faraway place called Afghanistan, fabulous treasures were buried underground for thousands of years.

From four sites came precious vases ...gold jewelry from the graves of a prince and princesses ...a real Greek city, completely buried ...painted glass cups and ivories stored perhaps by a rich trader

...all discovered thanks to the hard work of dedicated archaeologists.

*Set off to discover these  
treasures for yourself.  
Just follow me!*



## 1 *Pieces of Gold*

Once you enter the first room, look for these pieces of a gold bowl. They were discovered roughly forty years ago in an Afghan village—but they had been there for 4,000 years!

*Why do you think the bowl is in pieces?*



### **Because:**

- it is really old and has fallen apart
- it was cut into pieces so it could be shared
- it was damaged in transit
- it was made that way



*Continue into  
the next gallery.*



## 2 *Funny Face*

What do you think about this fellow made of carved stone?

*Check the words that you think best describe him.*

*Read the label to learn what he was used for.*



- frightening
- funny
- ugly
- old
- grimacing
- smiling
- pleasant

*After you watch  
the film in the next  
room, go upstairs.*

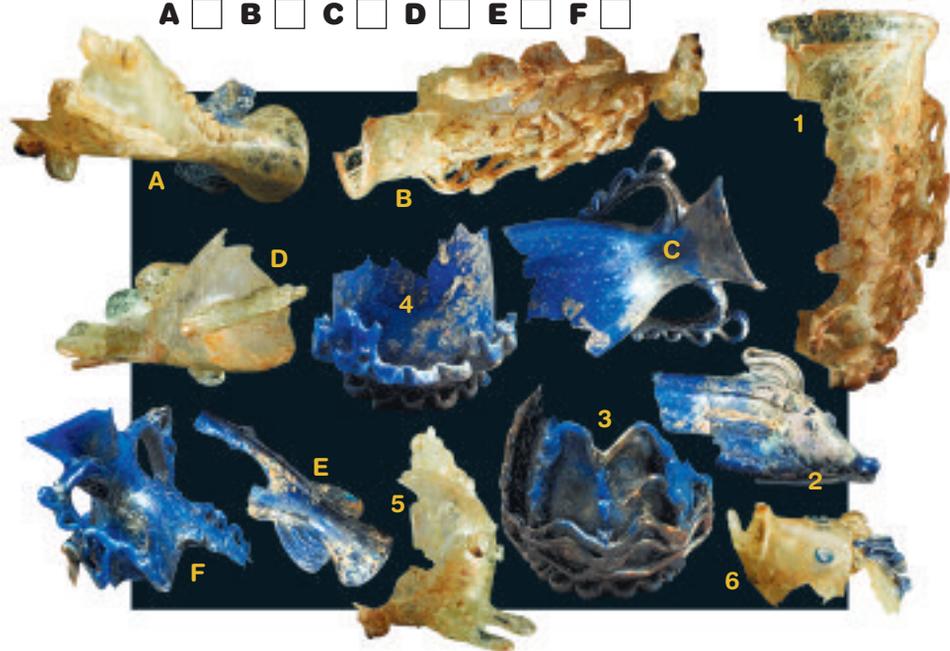


## 3 *Caution! Very Fragile*

Precious vases and small fish-shaped containers made of blown glass were found in the cellar of a luxurious house that belonged to a wealthy merchant. He lived more than 1,500 years ago.

*These fragile objects have broken. Can you put the pieces back together?*

A  B  C  D  E  F



# Tillya Tepe, the Hill of Gold **Tomb I**

## 4 *Stitched Up in Gold*

Gold plaques shaped like flowers, triangles, knots, masks, scarabs, hearts, and scrolls were found in the graves of a nomad prince and five princesses. The pieces were sewn onto clothing to signal the wearers' wealth and power.

*Find the ones that were found in Tomb I and circle them.*

*Continue into the next room and look for other tomb displays.*

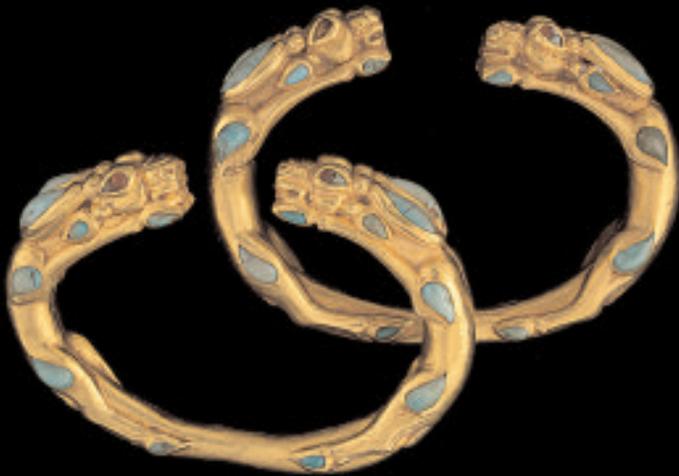


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## *Around the Wrist*

Antelopes are very fast. See, on these two bracelets, how they seem to race forward—with arched backs, extended paws, and horns and ears flattened by the wind.

*Do you recognize the materials used to make these bracelets? Check all that you find. You can consult the label for help.*



- gold
- silk
- silver
- ivory
- turquoise
- garnet
- plastic
- glass
- wood
- carnelian



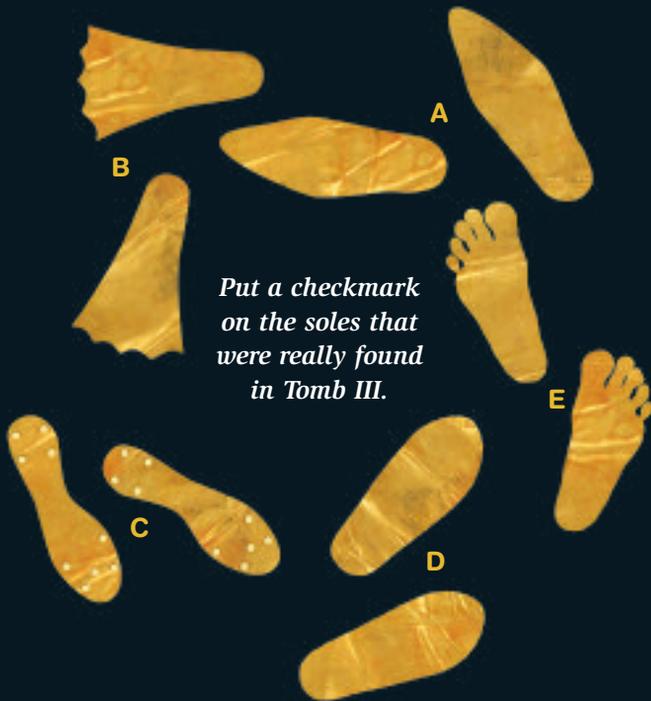
## 6 *Double Trouble?*

Two matching pendants were found in the same tomb. They must have been attached to a head-dress, hanging on either side of the face of the young woman who was buried there.

The pendants are decorated with a figure called the Master of Dragons. He holds two dragons by the paws—but something's gone missing! *Look closely and then draw in the missing parts.*

## 7 *From Head to Toe*

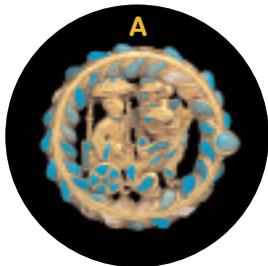
Appliqués, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, belts, hair ornaments of gold—the dead were decked out from head to toe! Archaeologists even found gold shoe soles. They had been cut by hand from thin sheets of gold and pierced with tiny holes to be sewn onto boots.



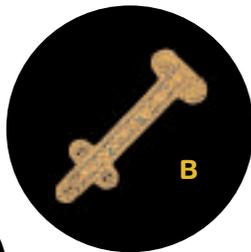
8

## *Armed to the Teeth*

The man buried at Tillya Tepe—probably a prince, chief, or important warrior—was found entombed with his weapons. The animal decorations on them and other grave objects were signs of power. Because they were gold, these works were also proof of his wealth. *Link the objects below with their descriptions.*



1  
a gold belt decorated with medallions showing a rider atop a roaring lion

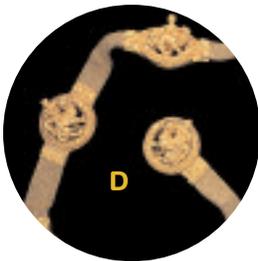


5  
shoe buckles decorated with a chariot pulled by dragons



2  
a figurine of a mountain goat

3  
a gold dagger handle with a scene of animals in combat



4  
a sheath with a scene of animals in combat



E

## 9 *Gold to Go*

Nomads, like those from Tillya Tepe, were superb horsemen. They traversed the vast plains of central Asia carrying their belongings and wealth with them.

Below, you see a splendid object that has been disassembled for easier transport. *Can you put it back together?*

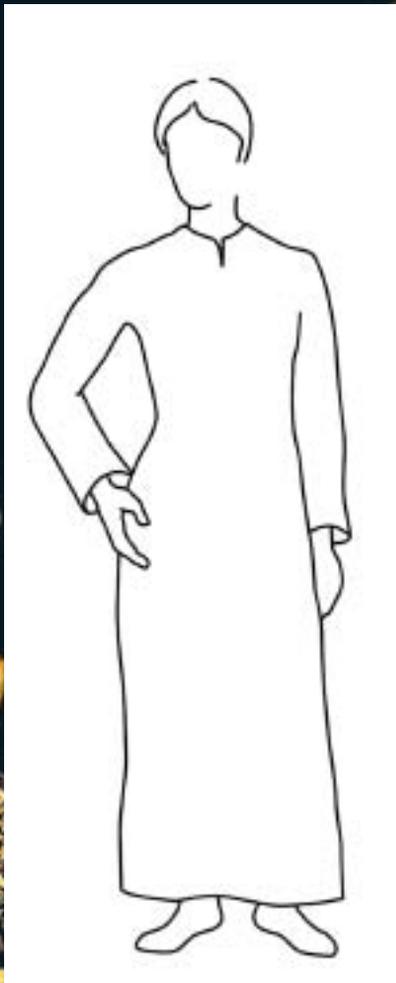
*Write what it is called here:*

.....



10

## Your Turn



*Use your imagination—  
and what you've learned  
so far—to complete the  
costume of a nomad  
prince or princess.*

## 1 *Pieces of Gold*

Answer: It was broken by the peasants who found it so that it could be shared.

## 2 *Funny Face*

It is a gargoyle that functioned as a water spout from a fountain. The exaggerated features are like those on the comic masks used in ancient theater.

## 3 *Caution! Very Fragile*

Fish flasks probably held perfume.  
Answers: A-2, B-1, C-4, D-5, E-2, F-3

## 4 *Stitched Up in Gold*

Answer:



## 5 *Around the Wrists*

Answers: gold, turquoise, and carnelian (a semiprecious stone of red-orange color)

## 6 *Double Trouble?*

Answer:



To learn more about the four archaeological sites, read the exhibition brochure.

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*From Head to Toe*

Answer: D. No ducks were found in the tombs!

8

*Armed to the Teeth*

Answers: A-5, B-4, C-2, D-1, E-3

9

*Gold to Go*

These gold-leaf ornaments join to form the diadem of a nomadic princess. It could be disassembled and laid flat so that it could be placed in a bag and hung over a saddle.

This exhibition is organized by the National Geographic Society and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, in association with the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

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