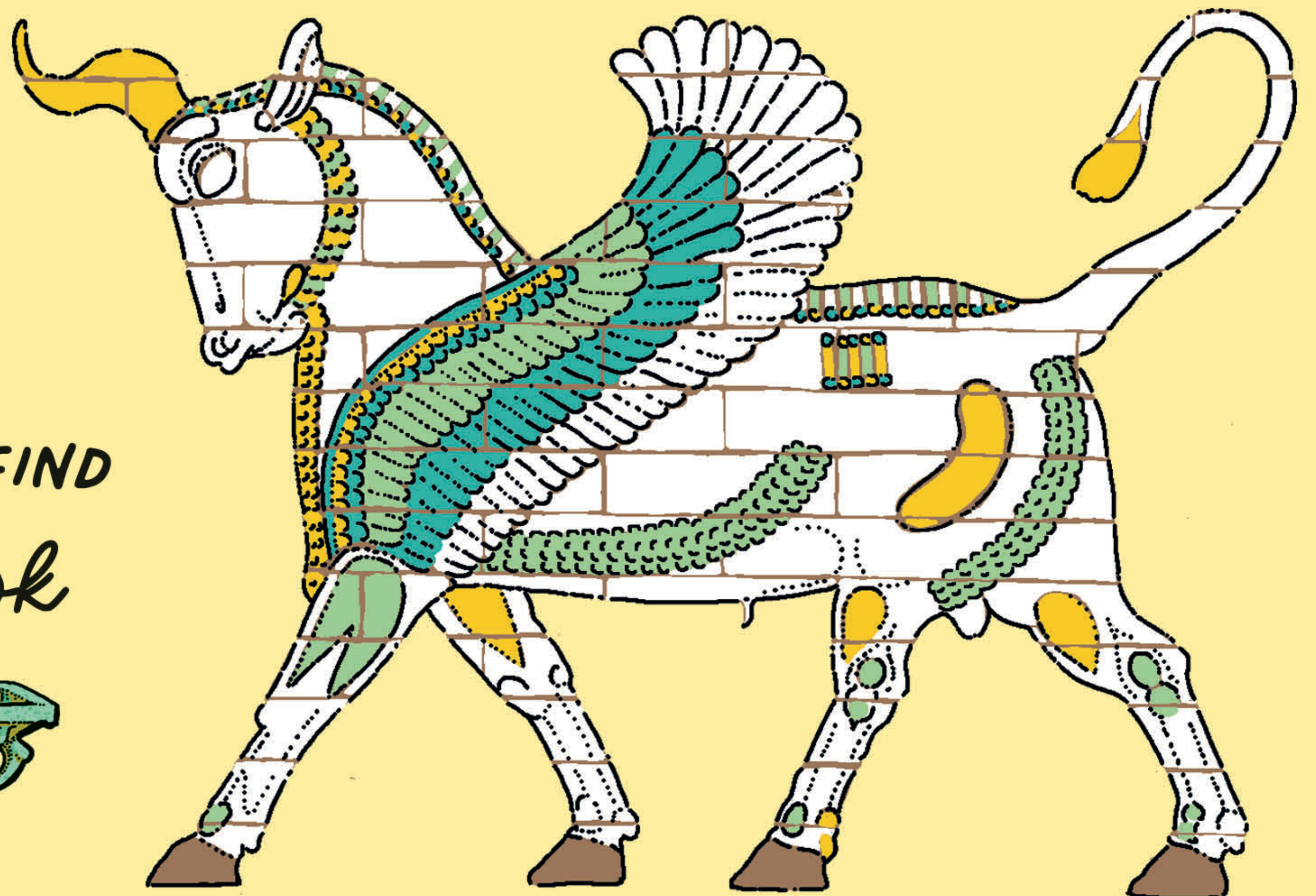
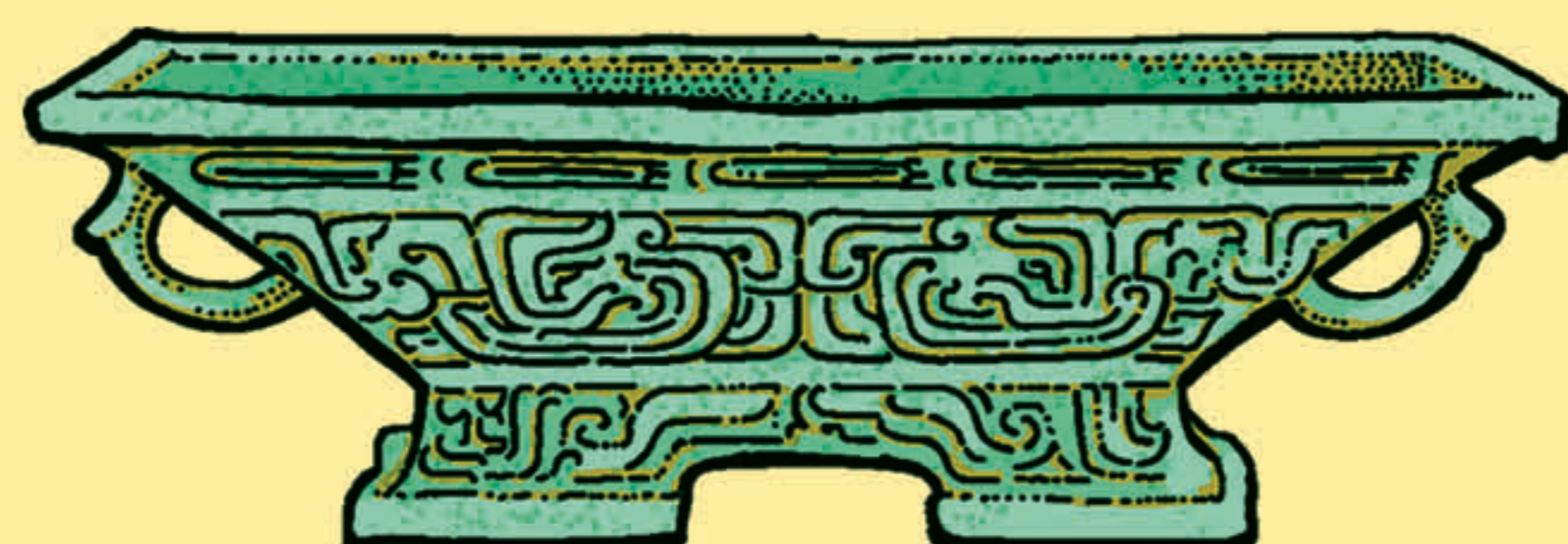


AMAZING ancient ART

ALEKSANDRA
ARTYMOWSKA



a SEEK and FIND
activity book



SUMERIAN Votive FIGURES



MOST FIGURES ARE IN A STANDING POSITION, BUT WHICH ONE IS KNEELING?



The Sumerians also created many votive figures which were believed to represent Mesopotamian gods and goddesses. The word 'votive' means an offering given alongside a prayer to honour or thank a god. The statues, which look like little stone people, probably depicted worshippers who wanted to leave their prayers in the temples. Each one is different. Carved from soft rock such as gypsum and limestone, many were found together at the sacred Square Temple in Tell Asmar, in modern-day Iraq.



ONE FIGURE IS THOUGHT BY SCHOLARS TO REPRESENT THE GOD ABU. IT'S THE ONLY FIGURE THAT HAS SYMBOLS CARVED ON ITS BASE. CAN YOU SEE IT?



MALE STATUES WEAR KILTS WHILE FEMALE FIGURES WEAR TUNICS. TUNICS ALWAYS EXPOSE THE RIGHT ARM OF THE FIGURES. CAN YOU FIND 5 WOMEN?



THE LARGE EYES, A FEATURE THAT ALL THE STATUES SHARE, ARE MADE FROM WHITE SHELL AND BLACK LIMESTONE. HOWEVER, ONE FIGURE HAS BLUE EYES MADE OF LAPIS LAZULI. CAN YOU FIND IT?

STANDARD of UR

One of the most amazing masterpieces of Sumerian art is the Standard of Ur. This is a wooden box inlaid with a beautiful mosaic made of shell, red limestone and lapis lazuli. It comes from the ancient city of Ur (in modern-day Iraq) and is about 4,600 years old. There is a detailed scene on each side of the box. One represents war and the other peace. The peace scene, below, depicts a banquet on three levels: the upper level shows a king with six guests, each holding a cup in their hand. The middle and lower levels show people bringing animals and food in preparation for the feast.

CAN YOU FIND THE KING? HE IS THE BIGGEST CHARACTER IN THE SCENE, SITTING ON A CARVED STOOL AND WEARING THE MOST DECORATED OUTFIT.



LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE FIGURES ABOVE. CAN YOU FIND THEM ON THE STANDARD OF UR BELOW? WHICH FIGURE DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE STANDARD?

MUSIC WAS PLAYED AT THE BANQUET. CAN YOU SPOT A MUSICIAN PLAYING THE LYRE? IT LOOKS A BIT LIKE A HARP.



ASSYRIAN reliefs

The Assyrians rose to power in the middle of the 3rd millennium BCE. One of the biggest empires in ancient Mesopotamia, they were famous for their palaces. These monuments were exquisitely decorated with wall sculptures called 'reliefs' - 3D sculptures carved into the wall. Popular images included winged figures, believed to offer protection to the kings and queens who lived there. Some, known as 'winged genii' had the head of a man with a winged body. The reliefs in this illustration are from the Assyrian Palace of Nimrud, built by King Ashurnasirpal II in around 879 BCE.

APKALLU WERE WISE, WINGED FIGURES WITH THE HEAD OF A HUMAN OR EAGLE, OFTEN SHOWN HOLDING SMALL BUCKETS. CAN YOU SPOT 2 APKALLU WHICH HAVE FLOWERS IN THEIR HANDS INSTEAD?



CAN YOU SPOT KING ASHURNASIRPAL II AMONGST THESE CHARACTERS? HE HAS A BEARD BUT NO WINGS.



CONSIDERED DEITIES, THE LAMASSU WERE HUMAN-HEADED WINGED LIONS, OFTEN FOUND IN PAIRS GUARDING THE ENTRANCES TO PALACES. CAN YOU SPOT 5 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE 2 SCULPTURES?



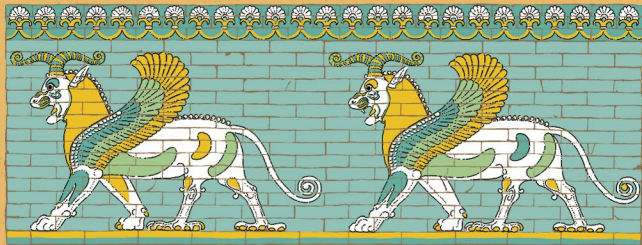
FROM THE FRONT, THE LAMASSU APPEARED TO STAND, AND FROM THE SIDE, TO WALK, SO OFTEN THEY HAVE AN UNUSUAL NUMBER OF LEGS. LOOK CAREFULLY AND COUNT HOW MANY LEGS EACH OF THE BIG SCULPTURES HAS.



PERSIAN frieze

The Ancient Persian Empire was ruled by the Achaemenid dynasty from 6th to 4th century BCE. At its height, the empire stretched as far as modern-day Egypt and the Balkans to the west, and the Indus Valley in the east. Persian art was strongly influenced by the Mesopotamian culture, as can be seen in the illustration below. The Persian King Darius I built an enormous palace in Susa, his favourite city. He decorated it with sophisticated mosaics made of glazed bricks in beautiful blues, greens and golds.

SPOT 5 DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN BOTH
WINGED LION
FRIEZES BELOW.



CAN YOU FIND 2 INCOMPLETE FLOWERS IN THE PATTERNS ON THIS PAGE?

LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE LARGEST FRIEZE. ONLY 2 MEN ARE IDENTICAL. CAN YOU SPOT THEM?

