

ARTY FACTS

EWER

China, probably Gongxian kilns,
around 830s
Stoneware

This ewer (water pitcher) would be difficult to hold and balance, and may have been made purely for decoration, rather than pouring water.

The lozenge motif with leafy fronds is an Iranian design seen on other objects in the wreck, which suggests that much of the cargo was destined for the Persian Gulf.

The stopper shaped like a dragon's head roughly fits the mouth of this ewer, but may not have been an original part of the vessel. When put in place, it blocks the snake's head on the handle.



MEET THE DRAGON

The dragon is a symbol of power and authority.

The dragon is a mythical creature made from parts of different animals. The ancient Chinese revered dragons and believed that they could bring rain. The dragon's head is perched on the mouth of this elegant water vessel called a "ewer" (sounds like you-were).

Spy with your little eye

the dragon ewer in the Tang Shipwreck gallery.



LOOK closely at the ewer, one of the finest objects found on the shipwreck. What shapes can you see?



CIRCLE the material you think it is made of.

METAL CLAY GLASS



EXAMINE the dragon stopper. It covers up a snake head at the top of the handle. Some people think it wasn't made to fit on this ewer. What do you think?



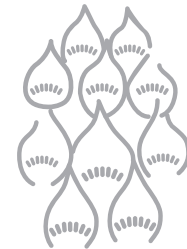
YOUR WATER BOTTLE

DECORATE your water bottle with these designs found on the ewer.

Similar Middle-Eastern designs can be seen on other objects from the Tang Shipwreck.

CREATE your own leafy and diamond-shaped patterns.

SCALES



LOZENGES



FEATHERS

