



Bowdoin

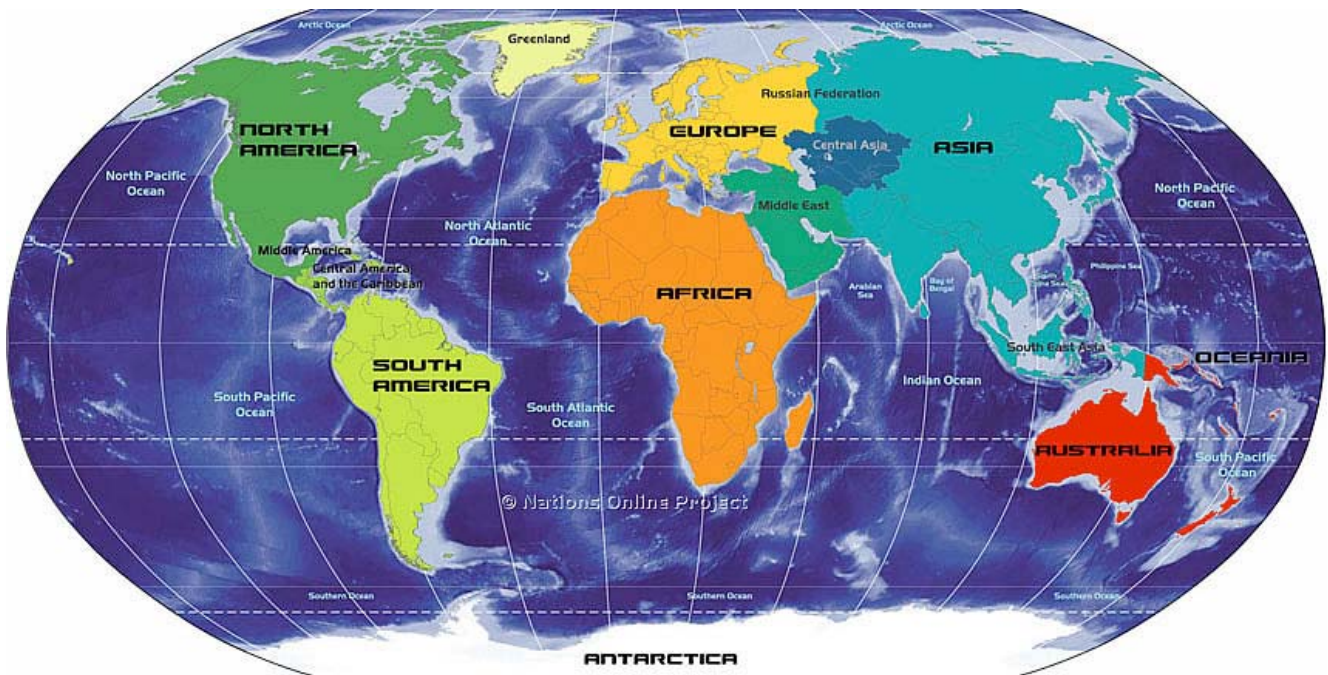
Bowdoin College Museum of Art  
www.bowdoin.edu/art-museum

# The Assyrian Reliefs

These stone reliefs came all the way from Assyria! Assyria is so old that it doesn't exist anymore. Now that region has a different name.

Where do you think Assyria was? \_\_\_\_\_

Look on the map and point out where you think Assyria used to be!



If you were told that Assyria used to be in the Middle East (look on the world map above to see where that is), where do you think Assyria was in particular in the Middle East? Which country do you think it is called now?

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Using the map below, point out which Middle Eastern country is where Assyria used to be!



How do we know about Assyria?

Assyria is mentioned in The Bible. However, Europeans knew very little about the ancient civilization until French and British archaeologists began to excavate (dig up) the buried ruins over 100 years ago!

In 1845, one archaeologist named Henry Layard found the ruins of a city called **Nimrud**. He dug in the ground and found enormous stone figures and very many carved stone slabs that you see here. He shared this find with many people, including Dr. Haskell, class of 1855. Dr. Haskell was instrumental in acquiring these slabs for Bowdoin College.

Can you find these slabs? Find where they are installed in the Museum!



What are on these stone slabs? Do you see images? Is something happening?

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What types of figures are these? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think these carved stone slabs were for? Were they just for decoration, or for something else? Why?

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The enormous stone sculptures that were in the Assyrian king's palace were dug up too! They were Terrifying being on Guard who would guard the throne room of King Assurnasirpal's palace. They were supposed to prowl about and protect the palace from evil. The horned cap means it has divine powers like a god.



King Assurnasirpal's palace probably looked like this (image above), with lots of painted stone slabs (the slabs here at the museum used to be painted too, but are so old that most of the paint has chipped away).

Now, you can draw your own Terrifying being on Guard, or throne room at the palace! Use the back of this sheet.