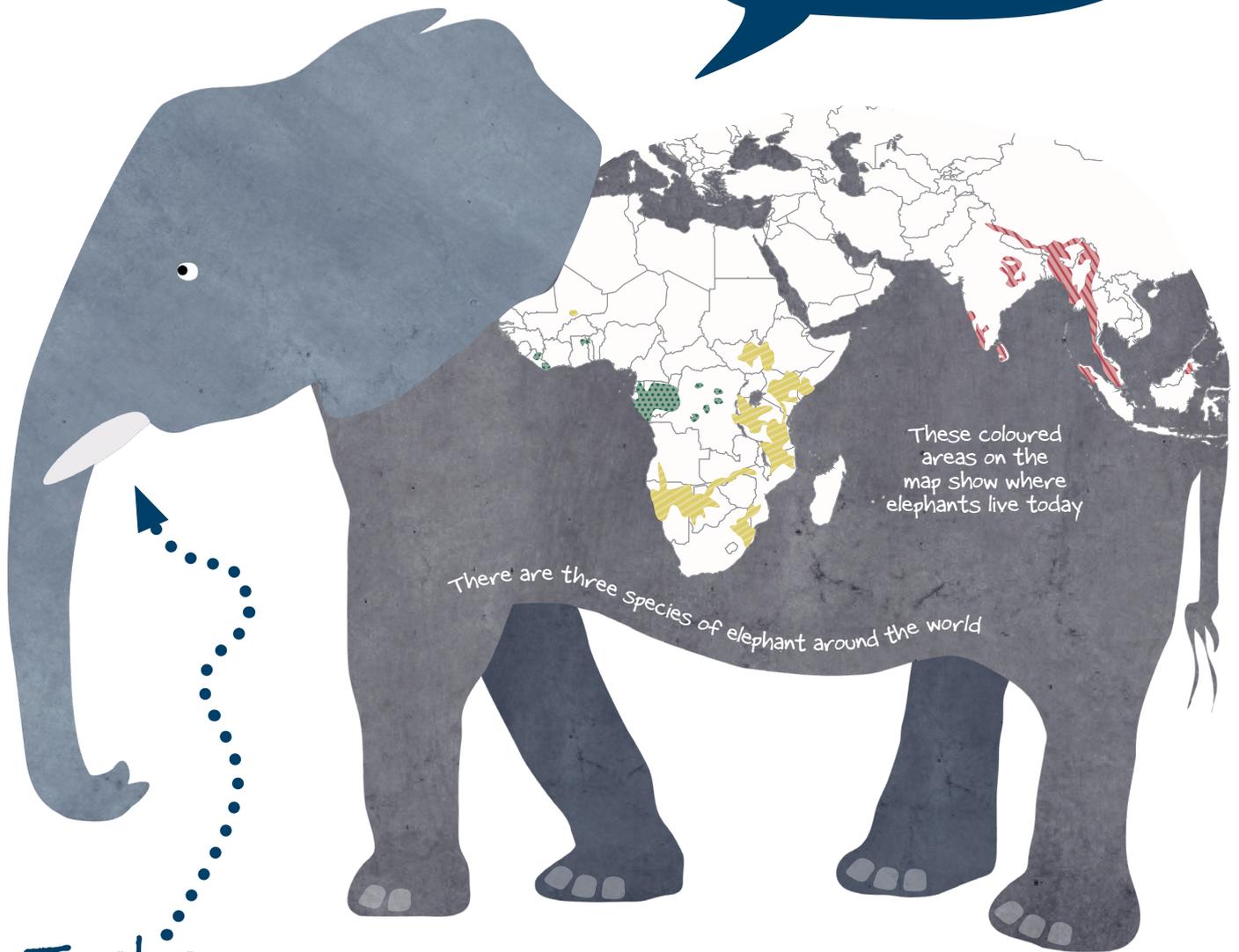


Elephant Ivory

This trail will help you understand how elephant ivory was used to make many different objects in the past, and how it affected elephant populations around the world.

-  African forest elephant
-  African Plains elephant
-  Asian elephant

Did you know?
Ivory has now been replaced by materials like plastic but elephants are still killed illegally for their tusks.



Tusks

Tusks are special teeth that grow throughout an elephant's life.

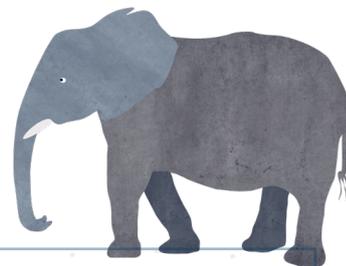
Elephants are endangered as they have been killed for their ivory tusks over many years. The use of elephant ivory as a raw material for everyday objects around the world, and the hunting with guns, led to the steep drop in elephant numbers from the 19th century.

Since 1990 there has been a ban on the international trade of elephant ivory and conservation projects have been set up to help protect elephants.

First Floor

Elephant Ivory

Find each object, use the map to help you, and answer the questions



1



✓ Found it!

Comb from Sri Lanka showing elephants sprinkling the Buddha with water. Probably made from Asian elephant tusk.
Case 119A 1886.1.9

Elephant ivory has been used to make combs and hair pins in many different countries. Look in this case to find another comb or hair decoration made from ivory and sketch it above.

2



✓ Found it!

Armlet from Nigeria, made from African elephant ivory with silver pins.
Case 111A 1884.82.127

Did you know?
In many West and Central African communities, elephant hunters were highly respected and skilled. Every part of the elephant was used: hair for brushes, skin for baskets, and meat for food.

In Nigeria, armlets made from elephant ivory were worn to show someone was important. What might a leader wear now to show they are important? Write your answer below:

3



✓ Found it!

Dice from England made from elephant ivory with anchor
Case 89A 1917.53.507

In the 19th century it was common to make games from ivory such as dominoes, dice and snooker balls. What other games made from ivory can you spot in this case? Draw or describe in the box above.

Ground Floor

Elephant Ivory

4



Found it!

Negbanzi (trumpet) from the Democratic Republic of Congo

Case 81A 1940.7.038

Did you know?
Elephants communicate to one another with various sounds, such as screams, trumpets, snorts and bellows. They can hear each other up to 10kms away!



In West and Central African communities, trumpets made from elephant tusks were skilfully carved and played at special occasions. The trumpets linked ceremonies to this great creature and its powerful sound.

How many other trumpets made from elephant tusks can you spot in this case?

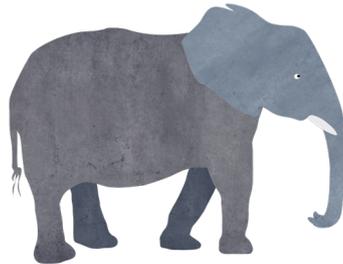


5



Found it!

Saw Sam Sai (three stringed fiddle and bow) from Thailand
Case 90A 1938.34.622



Did you know?
Piano keys used to be made from elephant ivory.

Look carefully at this musical instrument and find the different materials used to make it:



Ivory



Wood



Metal



Animal gut

6



Found it!

Bookmark from Tanzania with elephant carved at the top
Look in the top drawer of the Writing Case C.105.1 1995.21.20



Tickling each other



Cleaning their ears



Knocking down trees



Popping bubbles



Fighting each other



Digging in the dirt

African elephant ivory is a strong hard material which is useful when making objects you want to last, like this bookmark. Why do elephant tusks need to be so hard?
Tick three answers above.

Ground Floor

Elephant Ivory

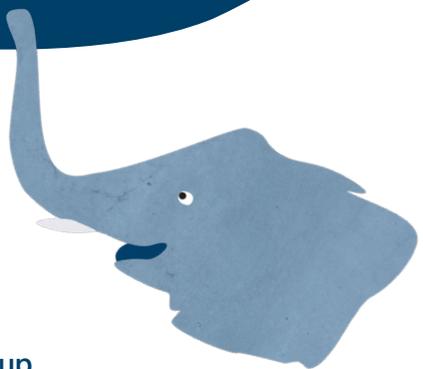
7



Found it!

Puzzle ball from China made from a solid piece of Asian elephant ivory
Case 111A 1886.1.93

Did you know?
Puzzle balls were made in China for hundreds of years to hang inside the house. The way to solve the puzzle was to line up all of the balls inside so you could fit a small stick through the centre of them all.



3 11 22

How many different balls make up this puzzle? Circle the right answer in the numbers above.

8



Found it!

Ivory sunshade handle from India
Case 111B 1963.12.4

Design your own handle for an object below.

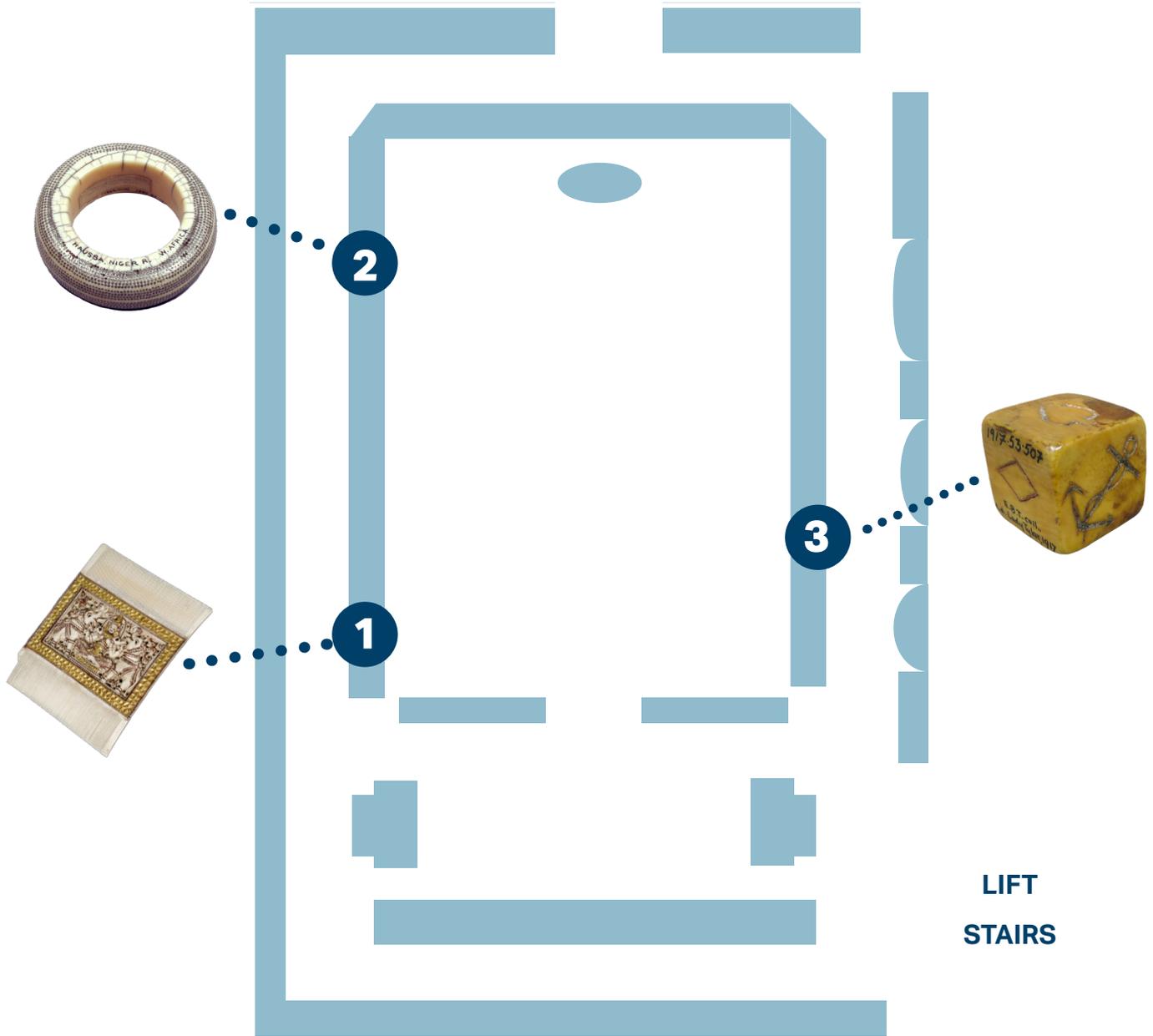
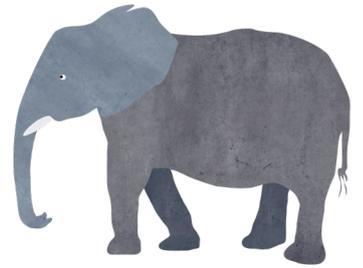
Elephant ivory was often used to make handles for objects. Circle 3 materials below you could use now to make handles which wouldn't harm animals.

- metal
- wood
- horn
- plastic
- bone
- ivory

Maps

Elephant Ivory

Find each object,
use the map to help
you, and answer the
trail questions



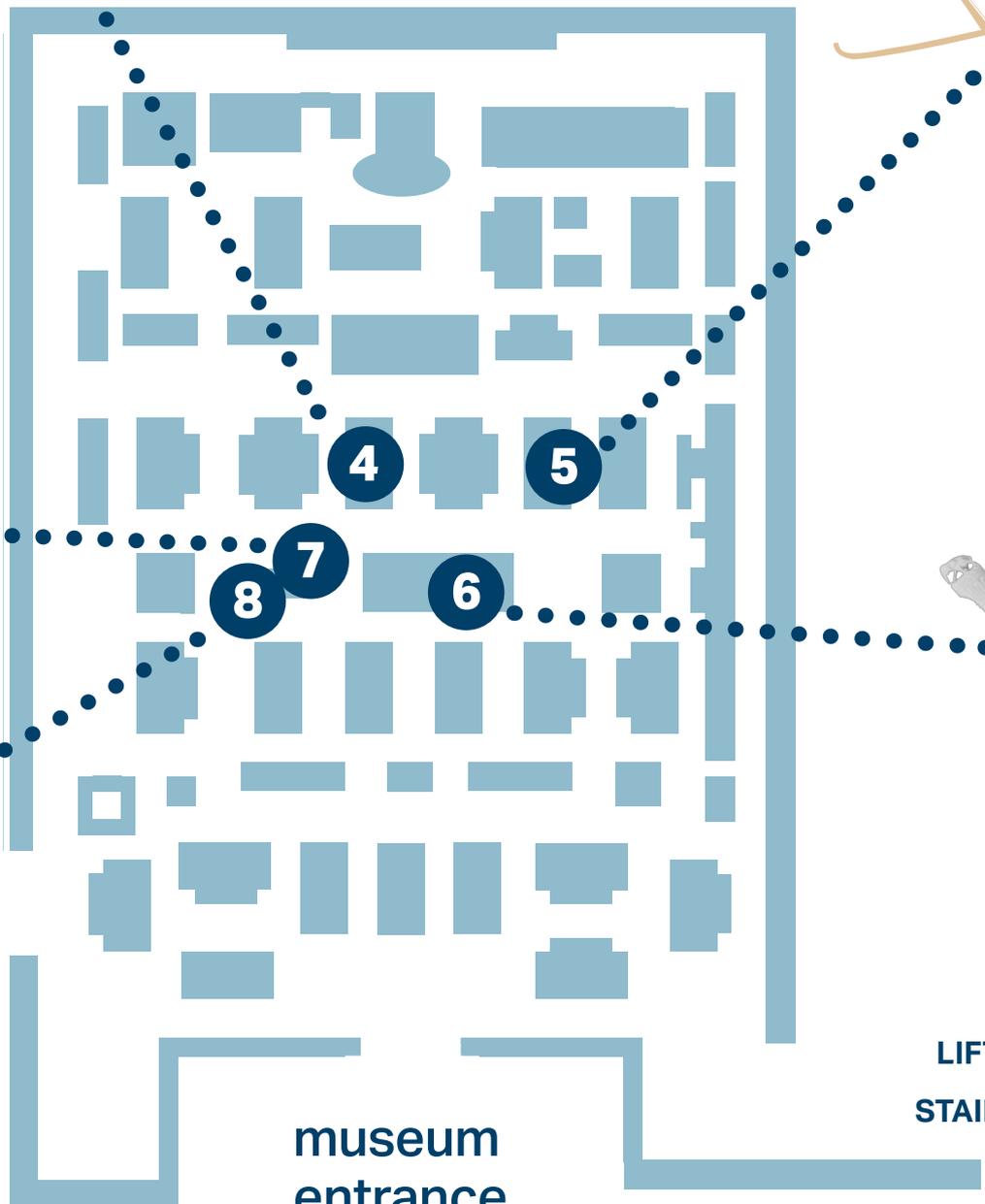
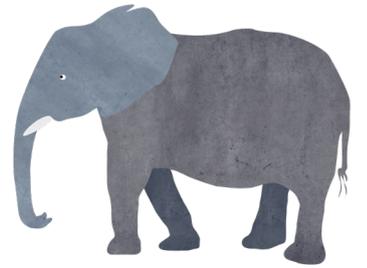
**First
Floor**

LIFT
STAIRS

Maps

Elephant Ivory

Find each object, use the map to help you, and answer the trail questions



Ground Floor